MEDICAL

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL

COMMENTARIES.

By a Society in Edinburgh.

Obtinebit igitur apud probos et æquos judices præſtantiſſima philoſophandi ratio, quæ fundatur in experimentis et obſervationibus. Cotes.

VOLUME SIXTH.

PART I.

LONDON:

Printed for J. Murray, No. 32. Fleet-ſtreet;
M. Drummond, J. Bell, W. Creech,
and C. Elliot, *Edinburgh*;

M,DCC,LXXIX.

AS THE TRIBUTE OF ESTEEM

FOR A CHARACTER DESERVEDLY EMINENT,

THIS VOLUME

OF THE

MEDICAL COMMENTARIES

IS RESPECTFULLY INSCRIBED TO

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

HENRY DUNDAS, Esq. OF MELVILE,

HIS MAJESTY'S ADVOCATE FOR SCOTLAND,

By his Lordſhip's moſt obedient Servants

THE COMPILERS.

Tum vero nos mutuo honoramus quam maxime cum virtutes alterius noviſſe laboramus; cognitaſque nobis atque aliis in exemplum proponimus, hominemque ipſum virtutis amore magni facimus.

J. A. VANDER LINDEN.

PREFACE.

IT has uniformly been the object of the editors of this work to collect from every ſource, thoſe modern diſcoveries, which, in their opinion, tend to illuſtrate the philoſophy of the human body, or to improve the healing art. They are not ignorant that the proper execution of ſuch an undertaking is a taſk to which neither their abilities nor opportunities are by any means equal. They may, however, venture to ſay, that they have withheld neither expence nor labour, in endeavouring to render it uſeful to the public and creditable to themſelves. And beſides the encouragement, as well as the aid, which they have received from many of the moſt eminent phyſicians, the extenſive ſale of the Engliſh edition of their work, and the tranſlation of it into other languages during a ſeries of quarterly publication, for a period of five years, afford them the moſt pleaſing teſtimony of public approbation.

But they are not more proud in having received ſuch encouragement than they are anxi-

ous to merit the continuance of it. Their readers, therefore, may be aſſured, that, on their part, every effort will be exerted to encreaſe and extend the uſefulneſs of this undertaking. In endeavouring to accompliſh this, they are now furniſhed with aids which the former ſucceſs of their work could alone procure to them. Theſe aids, they flatter themſelves, will not be withdrawn, while they continue to deſerve them; and they will not be more anxious to obtain future aſſiſtance, than gratefully ſenſible of the favour conferred upon them. Yet they now find, that without unneceſſary trouble to themſelves, and perhaps alſo to their correſpondents, a particular anſwer cannot be ſent to every one who may favour them with communications. They imagine, however, it is unneceſſary to give aſſurance to any who ſhall hereafter honour them with aſſiſtance, that a deſire to render their work uſeful to the public will be the only motive which ſhall ever determine them with regard to the ſelection of materials for their publication.

EDIN. 1ſt JAN.
1779.

MEDI-

MEDICAL COMMENTARIES.

SECT. I.

An Account of Books.

I.

Du Pronostic dans les Maladies Aigues. Par M. le Roy, *Professeur en Medicine au Ludovice de Montpellier, Membre de la Societé Royale de la même Ville, & de celle de* Londres, *&c.* 8vo. Montpellier.

THE author of the treatise before us, very justly remarks, that an intimate acquaintance with the principles of prognostics is absolutely necessary for every physician. For it has not only a material influence on the reputation of practitioners, but is also a circum-

 stance

ſtance of the greateſt importance in the cure or treatment of every diſorder.

The works of Hippocrates on this part of medicine are highly extolled by our author, the greateſt part of his aſſertions appearing to be the reſult of experience, and as it were ſo many facts noted down by the beds of his patients. But although the writings of this great man contain an infinite ſtore of accurate obſervations, yet our author is far from being ſuch a blind admirer, as to be ignorant of their being interſperſed with numerous errors, both as to reaſoning and facts. Many of his prognoſtics eſpecially, are found to be directly contrary to daily experience; others are given out in a general way, while they evidently apply only to particular caſes; on ſome occaſions prognoſtics are delivered as certain, which experience ſhews are only to be conſidered as poſſible. We frequently find mentioned as the moſt fatal appearances, ſymptoms which only indicate a very trifling degree of danger; and in other parts of his works, opinions occur, which, as yet, we have never been able rightly to comprehend, from a want of acquaintance with the caſes to which they appear to have applied.

To

To remedy these defects is the intention of the present work. Such prognostics of Hippocrates as are found to be confirmed by experience are retained, those again which have failed, are rejected, and a considerable number are added by our author from his own observation in different disorders.

As it is impossible to analyse a book of this nature so as to give our readers a clear idea of the whole, we shall select such parts as appear to be more immediately the result of our author's own observation.

An intermittent pulse, we are told, if it be strong, is not such a dangerous symptom in acute diseases as by many practitioners we might be induced to believe. In old people it is seldom even to be considered as bad, and ought not to exclude blood-letting, when, from other circumstances, that evacuation appears in any degree necessary.

Faintings, which occur in acute diseases, are always to be considered as dangerous, unless when, on examination, they appear to have proceeded, either from the patient having remained too long in an upright posture, or from worms, or from bilious collections occasioning an irritation in the primæ viæ.

In the ſecond chapter of the firſt ſection which treats of diſorders of the viſcera, we are told, that when a patient in any febrile diſorder, complains, from time to time, of feeling a diſagreeable ſenſation about his throat, as of ſomething paſſing from his ſtomach to his mouth; and eſpecially, when it comes the length of threatning ſuffocation, we may conclude with certainty that there are worms collected about the ſuperior orifice of the ſtomach, which thus occaſion an irritation in the œſophagus.

Such inflammatory affections of the breaſt as occur in the courſe of continued fevers, do not in general, we are told, prove ſo fatal as ſimilar affections in the lower belly. This our author ſuppoſes to be in a great meaſure owing to the ſingular advantages which, in ſuch diſorders of the breaſt, commonly accrue from expectoration, and which, in theſe diſeaſes, he obſerves, is the remedy upon which nature ſeems to place the greateſt dependence.

When ſpeaking of delirium as a ſymptom in febrile diſorders, our author obſerves, that it commonly proves favourable when the delirium appears in nearly the ſame degree with the fever, that is, when they are augmented or di-

diminiſhed with one another. But when the pulſe ſinks, and the patient's ſtrength begins to abate, if the delirium either encreaſes, or continues only in the ſame degree, this, it is ſaid, always affords a very unfavourable prognoſis.

Partial convulſive motions which ſometimes occur in acute diſeaſes; whether in the muſcles of the hands, neck, face, or any other part of the body, when at the ſame time other bad ſymptoms occur, almoſt always indicate, a certain and immediate death.

When ſpeaking of ſuch critical evacuations as occur in febrile diſorders, thoſe by ſtool are particularly taken notice of. On ſome occaſions our author remarks, a diarrhœa proves only ſymptomatic, and affords little or no relief. At other times it produces a complete criſis, and frequently again it affords ſome relief, without however proving altogether critical.

Stools of the colour and appearance of clay, give great reaſon to ſuſpect the exiſtence of worms. When the diſcharge by ſtool appears to be ſymptomatic, if it be liquid, whether it is of a yellow, or greeniſh colour, danger is then always to be apprehended.

Stools

Stools of the atrabilious kind, that is, when they are liquid, brown, livid, or of a blackiſh colour, announce almoſt immediate death; as do thoſe with a cadaverous ſmell. Such again as have a blackiſh appearance, from an evident mixture of blood, prove commonly favourable. In ſuch caſes the blood, we are told, frequently comes from the noſe, and they are therefore often obſerved after violent hæmorrhages from that part.

Among other obſervations which occur on *the urine* in febrile diſeaſes, we ſhall only tranſcribe the following. It has been proved, we are told, by experience, that ſuch ſuppreſſions of urine as ſometimes occur in acute diſeaſes, do not prove near ſo troubleſome as à priori might be expected; and on the contrary, that on ſome occaſions they have been known to give a complete criſis. In proof of this the following caſe is related in a note.

In the month of May, 1770, our author attended a man with all the ſymptoms of an inflammation in the breaſt, a diſorder which, at that time, generally prevailed. At length the patient was ſeized with a ſuppreſſion of urine, which proved an effectual criſis for the other complaints. The ſuppreſſion continued

for

for ſome days, during which period it was neceſſary to introduce the catheter different times daily.

Our author, after treating very fully of the doctrine of critical days in fevers, in a great meaſure denies their influence; and concludes with reſpect to them, that it does not appear from experience that nature ſhews any conſtancy in putting a termination to diſeaſes on ſuch days as have commonly been termed critical. Hence he thinks it would be a very great error in practice, either to form the prognoſis, or to fix the method of treatment from any conſideration with reſpect to theſe days. And a practitioner, in order to regulate his conduct on theſe two points, without paying any regard to the period of the diſeaſe, ought to form his opinion ſolely from the appearances, which preſent at the time; and particularly from the fever having been quick or ſlow in its progreſs; from the ſymptoms announcing a ſound or diſeaſed ſtate of the different viſcera, from the ſtrength of the patient, and other concomitant circumſtances.

When ſpeaking of pleuritic and peripneumonic affections, our author remarks that the diſorder is always more dangerous, when the pains

pains occupy the back, and mediastinum, than when the sides are the parts affected. When in pleurisy the pain of the side, and the difficulty of breathing, disappear and give place to delirium, the greatest danger is then, we are told, to be apprehended.

If in the course of a pleurisy or peripneumony the patient is suddenly seized with such a difficulty of breathing, as to be obliged to sit constantly in an erect posture, if the preceding symptoms have not given reason to suspect the formation of an abscess, there will be the greatest reason to presume that a serous collection has taken place. In confirmation of this, a case in point is here related in a note, similar, we are told, to several which may be found in Morgagni.

Our author observes, that from the authority of some very respectable writers, an opinion has of late prevailed, that no dependence can be placed in forming a prognosis in pleurisy, on the appearance of the *buffy coat* of the blood. From much experience, however, on this point he is of a very different opinion, and he concludes his remarks with respect to it, with the following observations.

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When the *buffy coat* appears on the blood, as it very commonly does in every caſe of pleuriſy; it affords a favourable prognoſis if it be not very thick, and eſpecially if in due time a ſufficient quantity of ſerum be ſeparated.

But on the contrary, when the *buffy coat* occupies almoſt the whole thickneſs of the maſs of blood contained in the cup, when it has tranſparency, ſuch as to reſemble a jelly, when on its ſurface there appears a variety of ſmall livid depreſſions or cavities, and when, at the ſame time, little or no ſerum is ſeparated after the blood has been evacuated for a due length of time; theſe circumſtances taken together, afford the greateſt preſumption, that the diſorder is ſoon to terminate fatally.

From the time of Hippocrates and Galen, downwards, a hardneſs in the pulſe, our author obſerves, has been conſidered as an eſſential ſymptom in pleuriſy; but practitioners, he remarks, muſt, in order to give credit to ſuch an aſſertion, yield up entirely the effects of their own experience, as daily proofs occur of the contrary frequently happening in this diſorder. In many caſes of pleuriſy, we are told, that even from the commencement of the diſeaſe,

difeafe, the pulfe inftead of being hard, is foft, fmall, and weak, fo that this fymptom can never with propriety be introduced into the definition of the difeafe.

When treating of fuppuration, as a confequence which fometimes fucceeds to the inflammatory ftate of a pleurify, our author remarks, that when the matter collected is fo fituated, as to be under the influence of the pulfatory motion of the heart, or of the larger arteries, the abfcefs, or fwelling on fome occafions puts on the appearance of an aneurifm; and accordingly a cafe of this kind is here related in a note, which occurred to our author in the courfe of his practice. In giving a judgment, therefore, in fuch cafes, other circumftances, befides the pulfation, muft be particularly attended to.

II. *Dif-*

II.

Diſſertatio Inauguralis Medica de Urinis, quam in antiquiſſima, ac celeberrima Univerſitate Vindobonenſi *Publicæ Diſquiſitioni ſubmittit* Georgius Prochaſka Liſpicio Moravus. Viennæ Auſtriæ, 8vo.

THE author of this diſſertation, after giving a general account of urine, proceeds to treat more particularly of different circumſtances concerning that ſecretion. He more eſpecially treats of the quantity, colour, ſmell, and depoſitions, obſerved to take place from it.

As the chief new obſervations contained in this treatiſe, ſeem to be comprehended in the laſt ſection, we ſhall confine our analyſis ſolely to that part of the work: it is entitled, *De Urinæ Sedimento Terreſtri, ſeu ſic dicto Cretaceo.*

Urine containing this cretaceous matter, is, we are told, for ſome time after it is paſſed, of a turbid whitiſh appearance, and by degrees acquires a natural clearneſs by the earthy particles precipitating to the bottom.

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This precipitation being very ready to happen in the bladder itſelf, the urine, which firſt comes away is frequently clear and tranſparent, while the reſt is very thick and turbid.

By the addition of any acid to urine of this kind, a ſolution of the cretaceous ſediment is produced, attended with a ſlight effervеſcence, and the liquid is thereby rendered altogether tranſparent. But on the contrary, ſalt of tartar being added, a greater degree of thickneſs occurs, by the quantity of cretaceous matter being conſiderably encreaſed.

Urine rendered clear by the addition of an acid as above deſcribed, on being allowed to ſettle, affords a quantity of red cryſtals which adhere to the ſides and bottom of the veſſel. The figure of theſe cryſtals, is, we are told, very various, being ſometimes cubical, and at other times rhomboidal, or oval. Their colour, on ſome occaſions, is of a deep red, and at other times they put on a more dark brown appearance. When thrown into water they ſink, but do not diſſolve; neither do they diſſolve in ſaliva, and they are altogether inſipid after having been once waſhed in water. They readily diſſolve, with a conſiderable effervеſcence, on being added to aqua fortis; and when brought

brought in contact with oil of tartar, they become white and fall into a powder.

If to any urine which was either perfectly clear when passed, or which by being poured off from its sediment, has been rendered so, there be made an addition of oleum tartari per deliquium, the liquor immediately becomes more or less turbid, and deposites a cretaceous sediment. On being allowed to rest, a quantity of crystals also form at the top, and on the sides of the vessel, of a whitish pellucid appearance, and of an oblong pointed shape.

On these crystals being deposited, and the liquor decanted, if any more oil of tartar be added, it does not again become turbid, nor does any more cretaceous matter separate and fall to the bottom.

The following are the conclusions which our author thinks may be drawn from the preceding part of the paper.

1st. That there is no urine, however clear it may naturally be, which does not contain more or less of a cretaceous or earthy matter; and that oil of tartar does not shew such a degree of affinity with this earthy part of the urine, as with the acid usually present in that fluid.

2dly. That the acid of urine, after being ſeparated from theſe earthy particles, forms with oil of tartar a neutral ſalt, which may commonly be procured under the form of white, ſharp, pellucid cryſtals.

3dly. That in the urine of ſome people there is ſuch a ſuperabundance of earthy matter, as entirely prevents its ſolution in the acid naturally contained in that fluid; and hence is produced that thickneſs, or turbid ſtate of urine, ſo common with many people, together with the depoſition of a quantity of cretaceous matter which follows of courſe.

4thly. That this earthy matter, when conjoined with either the acetous, nitrous, or any other acid, forms a ſpecies of neutral ſalt, commonly obtained in the form of red or brown cryſtals.

III.

Johan. Wilh. Gulbrand, *M. D. Practic. Havienf. Membr. Ord. Soc. Med. Hav. De Sanguifluxu Uterino.* 8vo. Havniæ *et* Lipfiæ.

THE treatife now under our confideration is divided into four different fections. The firft is entitled, *Aitiologia Profluviorum Sanguinis Uterini.* The fecond, *Phyfiologia Profluviorum Sanguinis Uterini Salutarium.* The third, *Nofologia Hæmorrhagiæ Uterinæ*; and the laft treats of the *Therapia Hæmorrhagiæ Uterinæ.*

The menftrual flux, our author obferves, feems evidently intended by nature, for carrying off thofe quantities of the general mafs of fluids, which, during pregnancy, are applied towards the nourifhment of the fœtus, and which afterwards become neceffary for a fupply of milk to the child.

A variety of caufes are enumerated by our author, as having a tendency, in the female conftitution, to induce a plethoric ftate of the fyftem in general, without a particular determination to the uterus: which, by degrees taking off that balance which previoufly fubfifted

between the mass of blood and the surrounding solids, at last, towards the age of puberty, commonly terminates by the appearance of the menses.

About the period of life when the constitution is already predisposed to admit of this evacuation, different causes occur which frequently accelerate its appearance. In this way any preternatural degree of heat, or fever, or, in short, whatever tends to quicken the circulation, has the most considerable influence. An instance is here quoted from Mauriceau, of an attack of a tertian intermittent having had an evident effect in bringing on suddenly the the menstrual flux. Anger, and every other emotion of the mind, we are told, have always very powerful effects on the state of the menses; terror, which not only acts by producing an encreased circulation, but by the spasm which it universally occasions over the surface of the body, is especially productive of this effect. A greater proportion of fluids is thereby sent to the internal organs, than naturally they should receive. Two cases are here related by our author, in which the effects of fear and anger, in bringing on the menstrual discharge, were very remarkable.

Violent

Violent exercife, and likewife a heated ftate of the atmofphere, are mentioned as powerful caufes in inducing the periodical flux in women, and from this laft circumftance our author accounts for the appearance of the menfes at a more early period of life with women in warm climates than in cold ones.

A curious fact is here related, which lately occurred to our author in the courfe of his practice. In an hofpital, to which he acts as phyfician, a very confiderable number of the female patients were fuddenly feized with a flow of the menfes: what rendered the occurrence more remarkable, was, that feveral of thefe women had for a confiderable time laboured under fuppreffions of that difcharge; others had been for fome time taking a variety of emenagogues to no purpofe; and in fome the menfes appeared, although they had only been free from their ufual monthly return a very few days.

On enquiring into the caufe of this phenomenon, it could not, we are told, be accounted for in any other manner than from a great additional increafe which at that time appeared to occur in the weight of the atmofphere; the mercury in the barometer having reached to

a height at which it had never been in theſe climates before obſerved. What this height was however, we are not informed, but it is ſaid to have happened on the 14th of April, 1776. At that time in Britain, according to the obſervation made at the houſe of the Royal Society in London, the mercury was under thirty inches, ſo that the great height to which our author alludes muſt have been merely local.

Febrile diſorders, our author remarks, act in three different ways in producing the menſtrual diſcharge; by debilitating the general ſyſtem, by inducing a relaxed ſtate of the ſolids, and by occaſioning a more quick circulation of the blood. Different caſes are here related in ſupport of the doctrine advanced.

Independently of theſe general efficient cauſes of the menſtrual flux, there are others, our author remarks, which ſeem to act more immediately on the uterus itſelf, and theſe particularly are too frequent venereal intercourſe; extraneous bodies, ſchirrhous affections of this viſcus confined in the uterus; pains and ſpaſmodic affections in the uterus and its different blood-veſſels.

After an accurate diſcuſſion of the *phyſiology* and *pathology*, our author proceeds to the laſt ſection of the treatiſe, in which is comprehended the *treatment* of uterine hæmorrhages. What is meant by the term *uterine hæmorrhage* is, every diſcharge of blood from this part of the ſyſtem which ſeems evidently to hurt the health.

The cauſes in general of this diſorder are, by our author, ranked under the following heads; a Relaxed State of the Solids; an encreaſed degree of Circulation, and an attenuated or diſſolved State of the Fluids. In conſequence of this view the following indica- are laid down for the treatment.

I. To diminiſh the impetus of the blood in the veſſels of the uterus.

II. To encreaſe the elaſticity of the uterine veſſels. And,

III. To induce a more healthy ſtate of the diſſolved fluids.

To accompliſh the firſt of theſe indications the following remedies are recommended. 1ſt. Whatever may be conſidered as refrigerant, or cooling; ſuch as cool air, mineral and vegetable acids, a mild bland diet, and a frequent uſe of cold water by way of drink, as recommended by Hoffman.

2dly.

2dly. Whatever can occaſion a derivation of the fluids from the uterus, and particularly a horizontal poſture, with the pelvis ſomewhat elevated. In particular caſes, where the patient has ſtrength to bear that evacuation, blood-letting at the arm is recommended; and with a view to ſolicit a flow of blood to the ſurface and ſuperior parts, we are adviſed to bathe the arms frequently in warm water.

Every ſtimulating application, and eſpecially whatever can occaſion any degree of determination to the uterus muſt be carefully avoided, particularly warm applications to the inferior parts of the body, venereal intercourſe, and draſtic purges.

3dly. Very evident ſpaſmodic affections frequently appear as the forerunners of uterine diſcharges. With a view in ſuch caſes to promote a free circulation in the abdomen, gentle laxatives are recommended, particularly thoſe of an oily nature conjoined with anodynes.

4thly, It frequently happens in child-bed, eſpecially after abortions, and likewiſe in violent hyſteric affections, that the pains and ſpaſmodic twitches, which in ſuch caſes occur, induce very profuſe uterine diſcharges. Opiates are then recommended as the principal remedies.

With

With a view to the ſecond indication of cure, which refers to an increaſe of elaſticity in the uterine veſſels, aſtringent remedies are recommended, whether by the mouth, or applied externally to the neighbourhood of the uterus, or more immediately to that viſcus itſelf by way of injection.

It will readily be underſtood, that while endeavours are making to accompliſh this indication, every thing muſt be avoided which ſeems to have any influence in counteracting the intention of cure, particularly whatever can have any effect in keeping up a relaxed ſtate of the uterus, ſuch as a moiſt atmoſphere, a too frequent uſe of tepid watery liquors, &c.

In order to fulfil the third indication, which conſiſts in obtaining a more healthy or inſpiſſated ſtate of the diſſolved fluids, a dry farinaceous diet is recommended, together with a courſe of incraſſating medicines; and when any putreſcent or ſcorbutic acrimony appears to prevail, the vitriolic acid, when conjoined with Jeſuit's bark, proves, we are told, the moſt effectually remedy.

Independently of theſe obſervations on uterine fluxes in general, a variety of others occur

cur, which apply more eſpecially to particular caſes.

In profuſe diſcharges of the *lochia*, if any part of the placenta or membranes has been left in the uterus; or if an inverſion of the *fundus uteri* has in any degree taken place, the moſt effectual remedy always is the introduction of the hand by the vagina, ſo as to remove every impediment to the contraction of the womb. When this cannot be got accompliſhed, mild injections into the uterus ſometimes prove ſerviceable.

When the diſcharge ſeems to be kept up by a real debilitated ſtate of the uterus, aſtringent applications to the loins are recommended, a continued general preſſure to the abdomen, a horizontal poſture, together with great attention in keeping the patient in every reſpect eaſy, both as to the ſtate of body and mind.

In ſuch hæmorrhages from the uterus, as ſometimes occur during pregnancy, an antiphlogiſtic courſe is recommended, with the continued uſe of the vitriolic acid and tincture of roſes. When theſe do not prove effectual, we are deſired to have recourſe to Peruvian bark,

bark, and eſſence of orange-peel, and to uſe what our author terms the antiſcorbutic tincture, a remedy, the effects of which are here greatly extolled, as well as in other parts of this Diſſertation. The antiſcorbutic tincture is prepared and uſed in the following manner:

℞ Eſſent. Cort. Peruv.
Aurantior. āā ℥ ß.
Tinct. Antiſcorbut. ʒ ß.—ʒi. M. Doſis gutt. 60. 4ter quotidie.

The preſcription for the antiſcorbutic tincture itſelf is as follows:

℞ Spir. Vini rectif. p. iv.
Inſtilla ſucceſſive Olei Vitriol. op. p. I.
Adde Coccionell. q. ſ. pro Tinct. Saturale rubicund.
Degere per 3 dies leniſſimo igne et cola.

When, during pregnancy, there is reaſon, from different circumſtances, to ſuſpect that hæmorrhages from the uterus will probably occur, blood-letting from the arm is recommended, together with reſt of body, and the uſe of nitrous and other cooling medicines.

It ſometimes happens, our author obſerves, that violent floodings occur towards the laſt days of pregnancy; owing, he remarks, to a partial ſeparation of the placenta from the uterus. For this ſpecies of the diſorder, no

radi-

radical cure can be expected till delivery takes place. Blood-letting is not here of any advantage, ſo that it ſhould never be had recourſe to, as it tends only to encreaſe the patient's weakneſs. Reſt of body and mind are much enjoined, together with cooling nitrous medicines, and a bland mild diet. But when theſe do not prove effectual, the only remedy to be depended on, is to promote delivery by endeavouring to dilate the orifice of the womb, ſo as to admit of the introduction of the hand. By this means, the placenta comes to be entirely diſengaged, and the cauſe no longer ſubſiſting, the hæmorrhage is thereby moſt frequently got the better of.

Such caſes of hæmorrhage as occur during the continuance of the labour, as they frequently depend on the ſame cauſe with thoſe laſt mentioned, viz. on a partial ſeparation of the placenta; are only to be removed by the ſame remedy. In every ſuch inſtance, therefore, we are adviſed to promote delivery as quickly as poſſible.

IV.

IV.

Philoſophical, Medical, and Experimental Eſſays, by Thomas Percival, *M. D. F. R. S. &c.* vol. III. 8vo. London.

THE writings of the ingenious and learned author of this work, have, on many former occaſions, furniſhed materials for our periodical publications; and to the valuable extracts which have been made from his other writings, the preſent affords an opportunity for making conſiderable additions.

As the articles which come under conſideration in the volume before us are very various, we cannot attempt to give a particular account of each, and ſhall therefore preſent our readers with a general liſt of the contents, together with a more particular detail of a few of the articles.

The different ſections are entitled as follows.

I. On the ſtate of population in Mancheſter and the adjacent places.

II. On the proportional mortality of the ſmall-pox and meaſles, in the ſeveral periods of life and different ſeaſons of the year; together

ther with its comparative mortality to males and females.

III. On the different quantities of rain which fall at different heights over the ſame ſpot of ground.

IV. On the ſolution of ſtones of the urinary, and of the gall-bladder, by water impregnated with fixed air.

V. On the nature and compoſition of urinary calculi.

VI. On the internal regulation of hoſpitals.

VII. On the influence of fixed air, on the colour and vegetation of plants.

VIII. On the action of different manures.

IX. On the properties of different abſorbents.

X. Miſcellaneous obſervations, caſes and inquiries.

And to the whole is added an Appendix, containing, a letter to the author from Dr. Saunders, on the ſolution of human calculi, with ſome other papers on different ſubjects.

As there are contained ſeveral intereſting facts in the tenth ſection, under the head of Miſcellaneous Obſervations, Caſes, and Inquiries, we ſhall here ſelect a few of them.

Fatal

Fatal effects of Yew leaves.

On the 25th of March, 1774, three children belonging to a labouring man near Manchester, were killed, we are told, by taking a small quantity of the fresh leaves of the yew tree, or *Taxus Officinalis* of Caspar Bauhin. The oldest child was five, the second four, and the youngest three years of age; they were all supposed to be affected with worms, for which this poison was prescribed, by some ignorant person, as a powerful remedy.

The dried leaves were first employed; a spoonful of them being mixed with brown sugar, was divided into three equal doses, and given to the children, but without producing any evident effects.—Two days thereafter, the mother collected fresh leaves, and administered them in the same dose as before, about seven o'clock in the morning. At eight o'clock the children breakfasted upon nettle pottage, that is, oatmeal gruel with fresh nettles boiled in it. At nine they began to be uneasy; were chilly and listless; yawned much; and frequently stretched out their limbs.

 The

The oldeſt vomited a little and complained of gripings in his belly; but the others expreſſed no ſigns of pain. The ſecond child died at ten o'clock, the youngeſt about one; and the oldeſt at three in the afternoon. No agonies accompanied their diſſolution; no ſwelling of the abdomen enſued, and after death they had the appearance of being in a placid ſleep.

Theſe particulars our author learned from the parents of the children, whoſe ignorance, he laments, led them too long to rely on the trifling and inefficacious means of relief ſuggeſted to them by their neighbours.

It is aſſerted by Brookes, in his Natural Hiſtory, vol. vi. page 396, that the yew is not poiſonous.—But Cativulcus, our author remarks, deſtroyed himſelf by it, as appears from a paſſage in Cæſar's Commentaries.

COFFEE.

Oct. 19th. 1774, a phyſician was affected with a ſevere head-ach, in conſequence of having been diſturbed in the night. At two o'clock in the afternoon, he took eighteen drops of laudanum, and immediately afterwards three diſhes of very ſtrong coffee. He lay down

upon

upon the bed, and endeavoured to compoſe himſelf to ſleep, his pain abated in half an hour, and in an hour was entirely removed; but he felt not the leaſt diſpoſition to ſleep, although he is often drowſy after dinner, and ſometimes indulges himſelf in ſleeping at that time.

Nov. 1ſt, he repeated on a ſimilar occaſion, the uſe of laudanum and coffee, in the like quantity as before. The effects were preciſely the ſame; he obtained eaſe from pain, but had no diſpoſition to ſleep.

Nov. 16, he took eighteen drops of laudanum, when under the head-ach, but without coffee. The opiate compoſed him to ſleep in an hour, but did not entirely remove the pain in his head.

Theſe facts, Dr. Percival obſerves, confirm a remark which he made in a former volume, that coffee is taken in large quantities with peculiar propriety by the Turks and Arabians, becauſe it counteracts the narcotic effects of opium, to the uſe of which theſe nations are much addicted.

The following curious and important obſervation our author informs us, is extracted

from a letter, with which he was favoured by Sir John Pringle, and which he here introduces as being connected with the subject.

'On reading the section on coffee, contained 'in the second volume of your Essays, one 'quality occurred to me which I had observed 'of that liquor, confirming what you have said 'of its sedative powers. It is the best abater 'of the periodic asthma that I have seen. The 'coffee ought to be of the best Moccha, newly 'burnt, and made very strong immediately 'after grinding it. I have commonly ordered 'an ounce for one dish, which is to be repeat'ed fresh after the interval of a quarter, or 'half an hour, and which I direct to be taken 'without milk or sugar. The medicine in 'general is mentioned by Musgrave, in his 'treatise De Athritide Anomala; but I first 'heard of it, continues Sir John, from a phy'sician of this place, who having once practised 'at Litchfield, had been informed by the old 'people of that place, that Sir John Floyer, 'during the latter part of his life, kept free 'from, or at least lived easy under, his asthma, 'by the use of very strong coffee. This dis'covery it seems he made after the publication 'of his book upon that disease.'

So

So far Sir John Pringle; and our author concludes his remarks upon this subject, with observing, that since the receipt of the above letter he has frequently directed coffee in the asthma with great success.

Worms discharged from the Lungs.

Dr. Percival remarks that instances are to be found in different authors, of worms having been discharged from the lungs, particularly in Schenkius, in his *Observationes Medicinales de pulmonibus* in *Morgagni's Epistles*, and in *Lieutand. Hist. Anat. Med.* As an instance of the same kind the following case is related.

Mr. Hanforth, aged 49 years, had been long troubled with a cough, and with a fullness and oppression at his breast. He frequently expectorated lumps of black, grumous blood, which gave him relief. In Feb. 1774, the oppression increased, and in the night he discharged, by coughing, two masses, one of the size of a nutmeg, the other smaller. They were of the colour of chocolate. When the larger substance was opened, it was found to contain a considerable number of worms, like maggots, in a very lively state.—His cough

and expectoration, we are told, ſtill continue, but the oppreſſion at his breaſt is not ſo troubleſome, and the diſcharge of coagulated blood is leſs frequent.

This patient's complaints were not attended with any hectic ſymptoms; and he is unable to give any account of the origin of them. The late Dr. Watſon of Stockport, ſaw and examined the worms which he diſcharged in this manner.

In theſe ſections of the preſent work which treat of calculous concretions, different experiments are enumerated, both by Dr. Saunders of London, and our author, as proofs of the lithontriptic effects of water impregnated with fixed air. In all theſe, diſtilled water ſaturated with fixed air, conſtantly produced a diminution of weight in ſuch pieces of human calculi as were immerſed in it; while pieces of the ſame concretions, on being put for the ſame ſpace of time into ſimple diſtilled water, did not undergo any kind of change.

V.

Recherches Historiques et Partiques, sur la Section de la Symphyse du Pubis, pratiquée pour supleer a l'Operation Cæsarienne la 2 Octobre, 1777, sur la Femme Souchot par M. Alphonse le Roy, *Docteur Regent de la Faculté de Medicine de Paris, Professeur des Maladies des Femmes, & des Accouchemens.* Paris, 8vo. 1778.

IN a former number of this work, we gave an account of the bones of the pubis having been divided at their symphysis, with a view to effect a delivery in the case of a narrow pelvis. This operation was performed by Mr. Sigault, an accoucheur in Paris.

Although Mr. Sigault, however, was the actual operator in the case alluded to, and is, in fact, to be considered as the person who, in the present age at least, first proposed such an attempt; yet as Dr. Le Roy had been very active in his researches for forwarding the operation, and was in reality present with Mr. Sigault, and even acted as his assistant on that occasion, he thinks, therefore, that he is in some measure entitled to a share, of whatever

applauſe the public may think due to ſuch a diſcovery.—With a view to have this point aſcertained, as well as to communicate to the world a particular account of the operation, and its conſequences, he has been induced to publiſh the preſent performance.

The treatiſe before us is divided into three parts; in the firſt, the author gives an account of the different circumſtances which ſeem to have pointed out the operation in queſtion; and of the different authors by whom it has been propoſed. In the ſecond we have an account of the manner in which the operation was actually performed, together with a detail of the conſequences which enſued. And in the third part, the author endeavours to account for theſe conſequences; points out the means of preventing them in future, and afterwards proceeds to enumerate ſuch circumſtances, as, he thinks, evidently indicate the neceſſity of having recourſe to this operation.

In caſes of difficult labour from a narrowneſs of the pelvis, the Cæſarian ſection has been the only recourſe both among the ancients and moderns; but as in that operation the mother almoſt always falls a ſacrifice, the preſent diſcovery, if it continues to ſucceed as well

as it has hitherto done, will, no doubt, be confidered as one of the moft material improvements that has occurred in midwifery.

From different paffages in the writings of Hippocrates and Galen, Mr. le Roy obferves, it is evident that thefe authors were well acquainted with the mechanifm of the bones of the pelvis, as they both fpeak of the great flexibility of thefe bones, and of the extenfion they admit of at their different articulations in the time of labour.

It was not, however, till about the year 1519, that any ufe was attempted to be made of this knowlege in affifting the labours of women. In this year we was told Jacques d'Amboife, a famous anatomift of Paris, having met with a female fubject who had fuffered death a few days after delivery, took this opportunity of demonftrating to a number of his brethren, the very great mobility which at that period occurs in the bones of the female pelvis.

One of d'Amboife's hearers, a furgeon anatomift, of the name of Pineau, being thoroughly convinced from what he had feen, that more ufe might be made in affifting delivery than had hitherto been done, of this great de-

gree

gree of laxity which occurred in the female pelvis; after collecting all that had been said upon the subject into the form of a treatise, proposed, that, in order to assist nature as much as possible in producing a laxity and separation of the bones of the pelvis, emollient cataplasms and embrocations should be kept constantly applied to their symphyses during pregnancy; and particularly to the symphysis of the pubis. He even goes so far as to propose, but with great diffidence, that in difficult cases the pubis might be separated by a section of the symphysis.

No operation, however, was ever attempted in consequence of this doctrine; but in the year 1768, our author informs us, a treatise was presented to the surgeons of Paris by Mr. Sigault, in which it is proposed to divide the pubis at its symphysis, by means of a section in cases where it had been usual to have recourse to the Cæsarian operation.—By this means, he observes, a separation of the bones of the pubis from each other can be obtained, at least to the extent of an inch.

The objection started to this operation, was, that in such cases, where it became necessary to have recourse to the Cæsarian operation, the

the ſeparation of an inch in the bones of the pubis would not be ſufficient; and that, from a variety of circumſtances, there was reaſon to ſuppoſe that although a delivery ſhould be effected in this manner, the bones would not afterwards reunite.

In a ſhort time, however, this laſt objection was in a great meaſure removed, by an experiment of Dr. Camper of Holland, who put the operation propoſed in practice upon a ſow, newly delivered of her pigs.—The ſow continued to give ſuck to her young, walked about, and the bones to all appearance were ſoon perfectly reunited.

In this ſituation the matter reſted, when in the year 1773, our author, we are told, commenced his reſearches on this ſubject.—The operation of dividing the ſymphyſis of the pubis was performed upon a variety of ſubjects, both male and female; in the former, any ſeparation of the bones that could be obtained by theſe means was exceedingly trifling. This was alſo the caſe in female ſubjects who had not died in child-bed; but in theſe, indeed, a very conſiderable ſeparation was always obtained, though never near ſo much as would be neceſſary for effecting a delivery in the caſe of a very narrow pelvis.

As

As in all the diffections of this kind, which Dr. le Roy had been concerned, it had uniformly happened that a much greater feparation could be obtained, by dividing the pubis at the fymphyfis, in women, *near to*, or *immediately* after delivery, than in other fubjects, he naturally endeavoured to difcover the caufe of this. He foon found, he fays, that in proportion as women advance in their pregnancy, a degree of foftnefs and flaccidity takes place, not only in the mufcular and other foft parts, but even in the cartilages and bones, and as this change is always moft evident in thofe parts which compofe the pelvis, he concludes it to be an operation of nature, intended for promoting a more eafy delivery of the child. Thefe cartilaginous fubftances efpecially, which form the junction of the bones of the pelvis, are at the time of delivery, he obferves, in fuch a very fpongy lax ftate, that they can be divided with the greateft eafe by the point of a lancet.

Having rendered himfelf abfolutely certain with refpect to this fact, it next occurred to our author, that if the operation could be performed upon a fubject newly dead, before the natural

natural heat was entirely diſſipated, a greater degree of ſeparation of the bones would probably be obtained than was found to be produced by the ſame means upon a ſubject not ſo recent.

A ſubject in this ſituation, with a liberty of performing the operation, was ſcarcely to be expected; at laſt, however, in the year 1774, our author obtained permiſſion of the friends of a woman, newly dead in labour, to put this operation in practice. Every thing now anſwered his expectations. Inſtead of an inch and a quarter, which was all the ſeparation of the bones he had ever before been able to obtain, he now found, to his great ſatisfaction, that an opening of at leaſt two inches and a half could be eaſily produced, which he ſuppoſes would, in the narroweſt pelvis that can occur, admit of a free paſſage equal to every want. After anxiouſly waiting for an opportunity of putting the operation in practice upon a living perſon, at laſt a caſe occurred on the 2d of October, 1777, in which it was judged proper to have recourſe to it. The woman was much deformed, had ſuch a narrow pelvis, that in four former deliveries the children were all dead, and in one of them it was found neceſſary to bring the child away piece-meal by the crotchet.

Mr.

Mr. Sigault was the perſon employed to perform the operation, and he, we are informed, deſired the preſence and aſſiſtance of our author.

On examining the patient, the child's feet were found to preſent, but as it was thought impoſſible for the head to paſs through the upper part of the pelvis where it reſted, and where the diameter did not, to the feel, appear to be above two inches and half, and eſpecially as it had never been found practicable, as was already remarked, to deliver this woman of a living child; it was therefore reſolved to proceed immediately to the operation.

The patient being laid upon a table, and properly ſecured, an inciſion was made with a biſtourie immediately above the ſymphyſis of the pubis through the common teguments, and other ſoft parts, and afterwards the cartilage was divided by the ſame inſtrument. During the operation, the thighs were held up by the aſſiſtant, and kept at a proper diſtance. After dividing the ſoft parts through one half of their length, the cartilage was then cut, and the diviſion of the ſofter parts was afterwards completed. A ſeparation of the bones, of fully more than two inches and a half, was thus

pro-

procured, and a living child was extracted by the vagina with very great eafe.

The feparation, we are told, was very foon finifhed, very little blood was loft; and the thighs being laid together, after all was finifhed, a very trifling opening in the pubis was found to remain. A proper bandage being applied round the loins, fo as to prevent the motion of the bones as much as poffible, the patient was immediately put into bed, and left to reft.

A very circumftantial account is afterwards given by our author, of the appearances of the fore, and ftate of the patient, at the different dreffings. Of thefe we cannot pretend to give a minute detail; it is fufficient to fay, that in lefs than two months from the operation, the patient was entirely cured of the fore, the bones feemed to be perfectly re-united, and fhe was in every way fo well, as to be able to go and fhew herfelf to a meeting of the faculty of medicine, who, with a view to have every circumftance, with refpect to this important operation, thoroughly afcertained, had, as foon as they were informed of its being put in practice, appointed two of their number to make every neceffary examination for that purpofe.

The

The moſt material circumſtances which happened during the cure were, frequent febrile acceſſions, and a copious flow of a ſerous kind of fluid, very much reſembling urine. The former of theſe, the different attacks of fever, were always found to proceed from irregulatities in diet, by the patient indulging herſelf with plentiful meals, at a time when the loweſt diet was preſcribed for her.

The diſcharge of conſiderable quantities of an urinous kind of fluid appeared to retard the cure, and proved a diſtreſſing circumſtance to the gentlemen concerned, as it was difficult either to detect the cauſe, or to find out a remedy. The urethra having been cut in the operation, gave ſome reaſon to ſuſpect the diſcharge to come from that quarter, but it afterwards appeared that it could not probably come from thence, that canal having met with no injury towards its neck; and beſides, the diſcharge did not continue conſtant, but appeared only at times.

Our author here offers a conjecture which, he obſerves, he has long entertained. He imagines, that we are not as yet altogether acquainted with the organs employed for the ſecretion of urine; and he adopts an opinion long

long ago propofed by Ruyfh, that it is probable the cellular membrane, which furrounds the neck of the bladder, has a confiderable fhare in the production of this fecretion. In the directions given by our author for performing this operation in future, we are defired to have a catheter introduced into the urethra, to ferve as a direction for avoiding that canal; and for the fame reafon as the urethra inclines more to the right fide than to the left, he advifes the incifion, both of the foft parts, and of the cartilage, to be fomewhat to the left fide, and not directly in the middle of the pubis. By keeping to one fide, we have alfo this advantage, that the fufpenfory ligament of the bladder is avoided.

We are directed, in making the incifion of the cartilage, not to keep the thighs widely afunder, to avoid the danger of occafioning a rupture of the internal ligaments, by the fudden feparation of the bones which would be thereby produced. It is better, our author obferves, to make a gradual extenfion after the bones are completely feparated.

Towards the end of the publication, our author informs us, that the operation had by that time been performed on other two women

 with

with the greateſt ſucceſs; firſt, by Mr. Deſpres, a ſurgeon and man-midwife, at St. Paul de Leon, en Bretagne, and afterwards by Mr. Cambon, ſurgeon at Mons.

Theſe are the moſt material particulars which relate immediately to the operation in queſtion, and we are ſorry the nature of our work does not admit of a more extenſive detail of the intereſting remarks, which every where occur in this performance.

VI.

Diſſertatio Medica Inauguralis de Calculo Renum & Veſicæ. Auctore Simone Lanphier, *8vo.* Edinburgi.

OUR author, after an accurate enumeration of the different ſymptoms, found to occur in caſes of calculus of the kidneys, and of the bladder, gives the following definition of the diſorder of which he propoſes to treat.

Difficilis et dolorifica, guttata ſæpius et ardens mictio, ſubitanea quandoque inter mingendum ſuppreſſio, urina ſabuloſa; mucoſa; ſæpe purulenta; et fœtida; dolore perinæi gravante; teneſmo.

The

The remote caufes of difeafes of this kind, he divides into the predifpofing and exciting caufes: under the former head are included all fuch articles of diet, and other circumftances, as tend to the formation of that earthy matter fo univerfally prefent in urine; and by the term Exciting Caufes, is meant, all fuch as have any tendency to collect the particles of this earthy matter into one body. The occafional, or exciting caufes of this diforder, our author remarks, may be ranked under two different heads; thofe which more efpecially may be confidered as of an internal nature; and thofe again which have evidently arifen from the introduction of extraneous bodies into the bladder; of the former kind, are, blood, or coagulable lymph extravafated; pus; mucus; the urinary paffages being deprived of their natural mucus, fo as to give rife to inflammation, and tumours originating from the internal furface of the bladder. Of the latter kind, or extraneous bodies, acting as a nuclei to ftones in the bladder, a variety of examples, we are told, are to be found in different authors, but efpecially in Haller and Nuck, demonftrating the influence of thefe.

In the method of treatment, we are favoured with the detail of a number of experiments,

 made

made by our author, with a view of determining the effects of different medicines in common use as lithontriptics; but particularly different kinds of alkaline salts, lime-water, soap, uva ursi, fixed air, and different kinds of acids. We shall here recapitulate a few of the experiments upon each of these; and first with respect to alkaline medicines.

Experiment 2.

A piece of human calculus, weighing nine grains and a half, was immersed in three ounces and a half of water and a drachm of caustic alkali; the phial, containing the mixture, being properly corked, was placed in a degree of heat equal to 98 of Fahrenheit's thermometer. In the space of 25 hours, the stone was found to have lost five grains and a half of its original weight.

Exper. 3.

The fragment of a calculus, weighing seven grains, being added to two ounces of oleum tartari per deliquium, and the mixture being allowed to remain in a degree of heat equal to 98, or 100, of Fahrenheit's scale, for the space thirty-two hours, the piece of stone was found to have acquired a grain in weight.

Exper.

Exper. 4.

To a mixture, confifting of four ounces of recent urine, and a drachm of cauftic alkali, a fragment of a calculus, weighing fix grains, was added, and on its being placed, for the fpace of 24 hours, in a heat equal to 93, or 100 of Fahrenheit, a fandy kind of fediment was obferved to be depofited, but the ftone had loft nothing of its weight.

Exper. 5.

One hundred drops of mild fixed alkali being added to four ounces of recent urine, and the mixture being placed for the fpace of 32 hours in the 100 degree of heat, the urine was found to have depofited a fandy fediment.

Exper. 7.

A fragment of a calculus, weighing nineteen grains, being added to a drachm of regenerated tartar, diffolved in three ounces of diftilled water, the mixture was placed in a heat of 98 or 100 degrees, and after remaining there 34 hours, the ftone was found to have loft none of its weight. The fame experiment being repeated with urine, inftead of water, the refult was exactly fimilar.

Exper. 8.

To a quantity of ſpirit of Mindereri, made with juice of lemons, and half a drachm of volatile alkali, three ounces of diſtilled water were added, together with a fragment of a human calculus weighing 16 grains, the mixture having remained 34 hours, in a heat varying from 95 to 100 degrees of Fahrenheit's ſcale, the ſtone was then found to weigh only twelve grains.

Exper. 9.

The ſame experiment being repeated with freſh urine, inſtead of diſtilled water, the reſult was exactly the ſame as mentioned in experiment 8.

Exper. 10.

A quantity of fixed air was added to two ounces of cauſtic alkali, which did not previouſly produce much effervеſcence with the vitriolic acid; but which afterwards effervеſced very violently with that acid. A drachm of this lixivium being added to four ounces of recent urine, a fragment of a calculus weighing ſix grains, was immerſed in the mixture. After the phial had ſtood 40 hours in a heat, varying from 96 to 102 degrees, the ſtone had loſt

loſt nothing of its weight, but a copious ſandy ſediment was found depoſited.

From theſe experiments, the following concluſions, our author thinks, may be drawn. That the cauſtic alkali is poſſeſſed of a ſolvent power, though only in a ſmall degree when conjoined with urine, and that the milder fixed alkali has no property of this nature. That as the cauſtic alkali differs only from the latter in being deprived of fixed air; and as fixed air is found in great abundance both in the ſtomach, inteſtines, and in the urine, that by the time it reaches a calculus in the urinary paſſages, it will probably have been in a great meaſure deprived of its active powers.

As the ſtrength of cauſtic alkali is alſo in a great meaſure deſtroyed, by its meeting either with an acid, or with any oily ſubſtance; and as medicines of this nature muſt always, our author obſerves, meet both with acid and oily admixtures in the primæ viæ, he thinks, therefore, that no great dependence can be placed on them as ſolvents of urinary calculi.

On Lime-water.

Exper. 11, 12, 13, and 14.

In thefe four experiments, different pieces of calculi were added to lime-water, and kept a confiderable time in different degrees of heat, from 62 to 100, without any evident change being produced on the ftones. But as thefe pieces of ftone were of a remarkably hard texture, the following among others were put in practice.

Expert. 15.

A piece of ftone, of a foft texture, weighing ten grains, was added to three ounces of lime-water, and as much frefh urine. The mixture being placed in a heat varying from 98 to 100 degrees, and having remained there 48 hours, the ftone, on examination, had loft none of its weight, but a fandy fediment was found depofited.

Expert. 17.

Three ounces and a half of lime-water were added to a quantity of fandy fœces, gathered from urine four days old. The mixture, which at firft was thick and muddy, immediately became

became clear, and depoſited a white ſediment. It was allowed to ſtand four days, when no degree of ſandy or ſtony matter could be perceived, either on the bottom or ſides of the veſſel.

Exper. 18.

Five ounces of freſh urine were added to four ounces of lime-water, with one drachm of vinegar, and the mixture left in a heat of 64 degrees.

Exper. 19.

Five ounces of recent urine, together with 18 grains of a calculus, were added to four ounces of lime-water ſaturated with fixed air, and the mixture was then placed in 64 degrees.

Exper. 20.

Ten grains of calculus were added to five ounces of lime-water, ſaturated with fixed air, and the phial placed in a heat of 64 degrees.

At the ſame time, five ounces of recent urine, intended as a ſtandard, was placed in the ſame degree of heat. After the ſpace of ſixty hours, the pieces of calculi had loſt nothing of their weight, but the mixture in Exper. 19, had depoſited a ſmall ſediment; and the ſtandard was found to have parted with a conſiderable quantity of ſand.

From

From thefe experiments our author concludes, that the lithontriptic powers of lime-water are but very trifling; but that it feems to have fome effect in altering the nature of urine. By this means it may, perhaps, prevent any farther formation of calculi after it has been had recourfe to; and from experience it has been known, he obferves, to give eafe in cafes of calculus, without, however, acting as a folvent of the different ftones. In proof of this, fome quotations are here made from the writings of Doctors Alfton and Whytt on this fubject.

Some experiments are next related, that were made with a view to determine the lithontriptic effects of foap and of uva urfi. The former was found to have but a very trifling effect as a folvent; and fuch pieces of calculi as were added to infufions of the uva urfi, inftead of lofing any part of their weight, uniformly gained confiderable additions.

As our author fuppofes uva urfi to be poffeffed of a certain degree of fedative power in common with the aftringents, he thinks its having been fo much extolled by Dr. de Haen, for the relief it affords in cafes of ftone, may be accounted for upon this principle.

On

On fixed Air.

Exper. 25.

The fragment of a calculus, weighing ſeven grains, was ſuſpended in a ſtream of fixed air. After having remained in that ſituation twenty-four hours, it was found to have acquired a grain in weight.

Exper. 26.

Twenty-two grains of calculus were immerſed in a quantity of water, ſaturated with fixed air; after the ſpace of a few days, the ſtone was found to have loſt only one grain and a half of its weight, although, during almoſt all that period, a ſtream of fixed air was paſſing conſtantly into the water from an effervеſcing mixture.

Exper. 27.

Nineteen grains of calculus being added to eight ounces of water, ſaturated with fixed air, the phial was immediately ſealed up, and placed in a heat varying from the 95th to the 104th degree of Fahrenheit's ſcale; after the ſpace of 50 hours, the piece of ſtone was found to have acquired a grain; for, at the end of that period, it weighed twenty grains.

To

To theſe experiments it may, perhaps, be objected, that a ſufficient quantity of fixed air was not added to the water; but our author obſerves, that no ſtone in the bladder, or kidneys, can ever have ſuch a quantity of fixed air applied to it as was here made uſe of.

Experiments with different Acids.

Exper. 31.

The fragment of a calculus, weighing nine grains, being added to three ounces of water, acidulated with ſpirit of nitre, the mixture was placed in a heat varying from 94 to 100 degrees. After having remained there fifteen hours, the ſtone was found to have loſt a grain and an half of its weight, and was become much more brittle than it was before.

Exper. 32.

A fragment of a calculus, weighing five grains, being added to five ounces of water, moderately acidulated with the muriatic acid, it did not loſe a grain of its original weight, after having remained in it fifteen hours.

Exper. 33.

To four ounces of water, moderately acidulated with the vitriolic acid, a fragment of a cal-

calculus, weighing five grains, was added. After the space of 15 hours, the stone was entirely reduced to a powder. This experiment was often repeated, and always with the same result. A saturated mixture of the vitriolic acid, with the volatile alkali, was likewise found to be possessed of strong lithontriptic powers.

From these experiments, our author is led to consider the acid of vitriol as a powerful solvent of human calculi. And as it may probably reach the urinary passages with as little change as any medicine we are acquainted with, he concludes that it may often be had recourse to with advantage in cases of stone. Independently of its lithontriptic powers, he thinks too that it may be useful as an astringent and sedative in the same manner as uva ursi.

How far accurate observation in future practice will tend to confirm, or refute, the conclusions which Dr. Lanphier draws from the trials he has made, we will not pretend to say; but every attempt to improve the healing art, on the solid basis of rational experiment, demands attention, and merits approbation. And it is much to be wished, that candidates for medical honours would rather give proofs of their in-

industry and genius in this line, than in copying from the lectures of teachers, or the writings of practical authors, which are in the hands of every body.

VII.

Exercitatio Therapeutica Inauguralis exhibens Observationes quasdam de Usu Aquæ frigidæ externo. Auctore Samuele Byam Athill, *Antiguensi.* 8vo. Edinb.

NO change has lately taken place in the practice of medicine, which can be considered as of more importance than the use which is made of the influence of cold acting, either generally, or partially, on the human system. And of the different methods of obtaining the effects of it, no one is more frequently had recourse to, than the application of cold water But when we consider that this mode of cure is not only used by the direction of regular practitioners, but resorted to by numbers influenced chiefly by fashion, there can be no doubt that it will frequently be productive of bad as well as good effects. Every attempt, therefore, to ascertain by experiment its real properties, and the principles upon which

which it acts, muſt be conſidered as meriting attention. It is with this view, that we now propoſe to preſent our readers with an analyſis of Dr. Athill's diſſertation, which every where affords proof of the judgment and induſtry of the author.

This diſſertation is divided into three chapters; in the firſt of theſe the author endeavours to determine and explain the operation and effects of cold-bathing on the human ſyſtem, as a proper baſis for future reaſoning. Dr. Athill begins this chapter with a relation of the phænomena which occur in cold-bathing; and that he might be able to deſcribe theſe not from fancy, or the authority of others, but from his own obſervation, he has had recourſe to experiments.

In theſe experiments, while other appearances are not neglected, his chief aim ſeems to have been to determine theſe changes which the cold bath induces, on the ſtate of circulation, on reſpiration, and on the heat of the body. Without entering into a particular detail of theſe experiments, we ſhall reckon it ſufficient to take notice of ſome of the general concluſions, which follow from the trials he has made. From his experiments it appears, that

that notwithſtanding the ſucceſſive feelings of cold and of heat, which accompany, or immediately follow, cold bathing, the body has in general returned to its natural temperature within the ſpace of half an hour. It further appears, that during the ſenſe of glowing heat, which enſues ſoon after leaving the bath, a thermometer, by proper application to the body, is not in an equal ſpace of time, raiſed to the ſame height as before immerſion.

The influence of the cold bath on circulation, ſeems to be ſtill more conſiderable than on the heat of the body. When the pulſe is reckoned in the bath immediately after immerſion, it is found to be very conſiderably accelerated, riſing in ſome inſtances from ſeventy ſtrokes in the minute, to an hundred and twenty. If however the perſon remain for a few minutes in the bath, it is found to be more ſlow, ſmall, and quick, than before immerſion; and in this ſtate it is in general found to be ſoon after leaving the bath, even in caſes where the ſtay in the water has been very ſhort. But in a few minutes after coming out of the water, its celerity is again ſo far encreaſed, as to riſe conſiderably above the natural ſtandard. On reſpiration it has

the effect either of immediately encreafing its celerity, or of rendering it very irregular.

Befides thefe particulars, he alfo, with great accuracy, enumerates and defcribes the various fenfations which it excites, and appearances which it produces; and from thefe phænomena, founded on obfervation, he next proceeds to deduce the principles on which it operates. He thinks that the phænomena, which attend cold bathing afford evidence that it operates in four different principles; and he refers its effects to its influence as a ftimulant, as a tonic, as a fedative, and as altering the courfe of the blood.

He next endeavours to determine from what caufes thefe effects, taking place upon the employment of cold bathing, are derived; and he particularly confiders how far they can be explained, from the preffure of the water on the furface, from the effect arifing from different impregnations, whether of the faline, fulphureous, or metallic kind, and from the fudden change of temperature. Although he is inclined to imagine that fomething may be referred to the two firft principles, yet he confiders its effects as chiefly preferable to the latter, the fudden action of cold. And he farther obferves, that the good effects which

cold bathing has in the removal of diseases, are probably not a little aided from its being performed at watering-places, where the mind is relaxed from business, and exhilarated by amusements.

Having thus endeavoured to determine the effects, and explain the operation of cold bathing, Dr. Athill proceeds in the second chapter to consider, how far these effects are diversified by different modes of applying it, and what advantages are to be expected from each. Here he chiefly considers the effects of diversity in the degree of temperature, and in the manner of application. With respect to temperature, he points out the different effects of spring or sea water, without any artificial change of temperature, and of the same waters artificially heated or cooled to certain degrees. And with respect to the manner of application, he observes, that this is considerably varied as being general or partial. Under the first he considers the effects of sudden immersion, of affusion or the shower bath, and of merely washing the surface; and under the second, he treats of the influence of the partial application of cold water, both as affecting the part to which it is immediately applied, and as affecting the

system

ſyſtem in general. But any proper analyſis of his obſervations on theſe ſubjects, would extend to a greater length than the limits of our publication will allow. We ſhall therefore conclude this article with a few remarks, drawn from the laſt chapter, in which he treats of the uſe and abuſe of cold bathing, when employed for medical purpoſes.

In the third chapter of this diſſertation, Dr. Athill firſt endeavours to point out the general indications of cure which cold bathing is fitted to fulfil; and, after endeavouring to deduce theſe from what he had before attempted to eſtabliſh, with reſpect to its operation, he gives the following view of them, under the form of a table.

General indications which cold bathing may be employed to fulfil.

I. From its ſtimulant power.

a. To obviate morbid affections of the circulation.

b. To remove a morbid diminution of ſenſe or motion.

II. From its tonic power.

a. To remove original delicacy of habit.

b. To reſtore vigour either to the whole ſyſtem, or to parts particularly debilitated.

c. To produce a conftriction on the orifices of ruptured veffels.

III. From its fedative power.

a. To obviate morbid affections in the ftate of action of the brain.

b. To diminifh morbid irritability.

c. To counteract a tendency to inordinate motions.

IV. From its influence, as altering the balance of circulation.

a. To diminifh the impetus of blood on the furface of the body.

b. To produce a temporary increafe of determination to the abdominal and thoracic vifcera.

The contraindications to the ufe of cold bathing, which are nearly the oppofite of the circumftances mentioned above, he refers alfo to the fame general heads, and of thefe he gives the following view.

General effects of cold bathing from which it may prove hurtful.

I. From excefs of ftimulant power.

a. By exciting violent agitation of the whole fyftem.

b. By inducing morbid action of the moving fibres.

II. From

II. From excess of tonic power.

a. By diminishing the natural disposition to free motion.

b. By restraining salutary evacuations.

III. From excess of sedative power.

a. By diminishing the general mobility of the nervous influence.

b. By destroying the sensibility of particular nerves.

IV. From its producing changes in the distribution of the fluids, to which the condition of the system is not adapted.

a. By increasing the impetus of the blood to viscera previously in a morbid state.

b. By diminishing the force of circulation, and heat on the surface of the body.

After these general observations on the good and bad effects which may be expected to result from the external application of cold water, Dr. Athill concludes his dissertation, by applying these doctrines more immediately to use; and with this view he offers many practical remarks on the proper administration of this mode of cure in particular diseases. Here he follows strictly the order laid down by Dr. Cullen in his Nosology; and from the observations of the most accurate practitioners, he en-

deavours to draw a confirmation of his own doctrine, and to point out the good or bad consequences, which may reasonbly be expected to result from the external use of cold water in particular diseases. As these, however, are to be considered as chiefly the observations of preceding writers, it would be here improper to give any analysis of them. And we may conclude the present article with observing, that the path which our author has followed, accurate experiments and careful observation, unquestionably lead to the most important improvements in the healing art.

SECT. II.

Medical Observations.

I.

An Extract of a Letter from Mr. Charles Hall, *Surgeon to the 14th Regiment of Infantry, to Dr.* Ralph Thicknefs, *at Wigan, in Lancashire, dated St. Auguftin, Eaft Florida, the 14th of May, 1774. Giving an Account of a new Species of Palfy. Communicated to Dr.* Duncan.

PErmit me to take this opportunity of communicating to you the following account of a fpecies of palfy. It arifes from one of the *vertebræ* ftarting outwards, and forming an acute angle with the *medulla fpinalis.* As the rifing is gradual, the numbnefs increafes gradually,

till, by the preſſure on the *medulla*, the patient is deprived of the uſe of his legs. This takes ſeveral months to accompliſh, and were nothing further to follow, the patient would remain in this helpleſs ſtate during life. But as the *vertebræ* that are in contact with the diſeaſed *vertebra* are affected, that above begins to riſe gradually, but not to a level with the *center-vertebra*; and afterwards the *vertebra* below riſes to an equal height with the upper one, ſo as to make the angle leſs acute; which, I preſume, has the effect of taking off the preſſure on the *medulla*. When this is accompliſhed, the ſenſe of feeling; and the uſe of the limbs are gradually reſtored. I have neither ſeen nor heard of an author that deſcribes a palſy ariſing from this cauſe, and therefore apprehend that it is a caſe that rarely happens. On this account it might be proper to make it more generally known; becauſe two inſtances have occurred to my knowlege, where ingenious practitioners were perplexed for want of having ſeen or heard of a ſimilar caſe; as no ſymptom led them to ſuſpect the *vertebræ* to be the cauſe, there being no pain in the part affected during the confinement of the patient. It is a caſe that muſt be left moſtly to nature; and though no material benefit can be derived from

from medicines, yet it is a great ſatisfaction to the patient, (after finding no relief from what has been preſcribed, and having the proſpect of remaining ſo for life) to hear the caſe explained, and to be told that nature will probably work a cure in the courſe of two or three years, ſo as to enable him to walk with the aſſiſtance of crutches: when the patient is on the recovery, ſtimulating embrocations and frictions to the limbs may aſſiſt.

"At the time of writing this, I have a patient, Alex. Cameron, of the 29th regiment, that has remained paralytic a year and half from a diſeaſed *vertebra* near the centre of the back, who is now on the recovery. The other caſe, hinted at above, and which happened before I left England, was of Mr. ——, in Cheſhire; who was a corpulent man, and who lived upwards of eight years after the recovery of his limbs, ſo as to walk with crutches, without any farther complaint in his back.

"I have heard of an inſtance of the *vertebra colli* being diſeaſed in the ſame way, when the whole body became paralytic excepting the head, and the patient recovered, as in ſimilar caſes. But the attendants neither knew the cauſe of the diſeaſe, or the recovery, which therefore was conſidered as being almoſt miraculous."

Addi-

Addition to Mr. HALL's letter by Dr. THICKNESS.

To the above account, extracted from Mr. Hall's letter, I may add, that the author, being returned from East Florida, has lately informed me, that Alexander Cameron was afterwards able to walk a mile without crutches, and was to have been sent to England, but that a year and a half after recovering so far the use of his limbs, he died of a fever.

Since Mr. Hall's arrival in England he left the contents, he informs me, of this paper in the hands of Dr. Hunter, Professor of anatomy at London; who, with great politeness and candour, favoured him with a description of such cases as occurred to his memory, and which might seem to bear some analogy to those above mentioned. He recollected three paralytic cases in particular, which arose apparently from morbid affections of the spine. Two of them were attended with caries, and both the patients died. In the other, the spine was anchylosed, and the patient recovered. In all three, the arch formed in the spine was very considerable.

II.

The History of a Case affording a Proof of the Power of extravasated Blood in dissolving Bone; by Mr. Thomas Thomas, *Surgeon at Tunbridge Wells, communicated to Dr.* Duncan.

A Man of a strong and healthy habit, aged about 45, upon lifting a heavy weight on the first day of October, 1777, thought he felt something give way in his right hip. Immediately after he was very faint, but soon recovered, and for six or seven days followed his usual occupation, which was that of a brewer's servant, with little inconvenience. During that time, he perceived an unusual weakness in the leg and thigh, but attended with little or no pain, and it was treated as a sprain, with spirituous and oily embrocations. At the end of three weeks his thigh was considerably swelled, and in ten weeks time from the accident, (when I first saw him) it was very much enlarged, and the leg and foot œdematose; he had frequent returns of excruciating pain in that thigh, but it was sometimes perfectly easy, and the other leg and thigh would be inflamed and painful; sometimes he was delirious,

lirious, at others had violent pain in his ſtomach, attended with great ſickneſs and vomiting, which could only be relieved by volatile and cordial medicines.

As I was uninformed of the preceding accident, and could diſcover no pulſation or fluctuation in the tumor, the patient's hiſtory, together with the above ſymptoms, favouring the ſuppoſition, I at firſt believed the diſeaſe to be entirely rheumatic. The thigh continued growing larger till the firſt of January, 1778, when it became very tenſe, in continual pain, and I could perceive a deep ſeated fluctuation; as he had no hectic fever, or other ſymptoms, that could induce me to ſuppoſe this fluid was pus, I began to ſuſpect a falſe aneuriſm. The tenſion and pain being exceſſive, I recommended emollient fomentations and cataplaſms, which, for a fortnight, gave great relief, excepting when theſe pains, which, by turns, invaded every part of his body, were fixed in the diſeaſed thigh. On the 12th of February, the thigh was amazingly diſtended in conſtant and exceſſive pains, which nothing could alleviate, and a fluctuation was felt in every part of it, from the groin to the knee. At this time it was examined by a ſurgeon of ſkill and repu-

reputation, who, considering the exquisite sufferings of the unhappy patient, and being uncertain what was the fluid contained in his thigh, thought proper to open it; and accordingly a small puncture was made through the skin, cellular membrane, and fascia lata. Immediately there issued a fountain of blood, of the consistence of cream, and a darker colour than blood is in general when fresh drawn from a vein. When about a quart of blood was drawn, the thigh was considerably diminished, and the patient easy. We stopped the orifice with a tent, and left the patient till morning.

Feb. 13. He had fainted several times in the night and this morning; the thigh was almost as much distended as before the incision was made; at the same time, the blood was constantly oozing through the orifice.

Feb. 14. His thigh was in the same state as yesterday. He had a return of the pain in his stomach, which yielded to no medicine; in the evening he became delirious, had convulsions, and died.

What induced me to lay this case before you was, the appearance upon dissection. That blood has the power of dissolving bone, if it

comes

comes in contact with it in the living body; though a certain fact, yet is not univerſally believed. This caſe not only proves the truth of that idea, but it alſo ſhews, that extravaſated blood, when long confined, has likewiſe the power of diſſolving the ſofter part.

Having cut through the integuments and tendinous faſcia of the thigh, I could paſs my hand quite round the bone, the muſcles, except their tendinous portions, being diſſolved to the conſiſtence of grumous blood, which, with a great quantity of pure blood, was contained, as it were, in a bag, formed by the integuments of the faſcia lata, from the groin and criſta of the ilium to the point of the knee. The crural artery, vein, and nerve, were entirely diſſolved, and the iliac artery, a little way, was very tender. The os femoris was deprived of its perioſteum, very rough and full of holes, ſome of which would admit a probe into the middle of the bone, which ſeemed deſtitute of medulla. At the ſame time there were ſeveral exoſtoſes upon it, which were ſo ſlender as to be eaſily broke down by the finger. As I was not permitted to take away the bone, or to open the abdomen, I cannot give a more

a more ſatisfactory account of the caſe. But I imagine it ſufficiently proves the ſolvent power of the blood as exerted both on the ſofteſt and hardeſt parts of the ſyſtem.

III.

The Hiſtory of a Caſe of the Pemphigus Major of Mr. Sauvages, *by Dr.* David Stewart, *Phyſician in Aberdeen, communicated to Dr.* Duncan.

A Private ſoldier of the 73d regiment, aged eighteen years, formerly a pedlar, and naturally of a healthy conſtitution, was received into the hoſpital at Aberdeen, on the 25th of April. About twenty days before that he had been ſeized with the meaſles, when in the country, and in marching to town on the ſecond day of their eruption, he was expoſed to cold, upon which they ſuddenly diſappeared.

Having arrived in Aberdeen, he was quartered in a damp, ill-aired, under-ground apartment. He then complained of ſickneſs at ſtomach, great oppreſſion about the præcordia, head-ach, laſſitude, and wearineſs on the leaſt exertion, with ſtiffneſs and rigidity of his knees,

knees, and other joints; the ſurgeon of the regiment viſited him: he was purged, but with little benefit. About ten days before, he obſerved on the inſide of his thighs, a number of very ſmall, diſtinct, red ſpots, a little elevated above the ſurface of the ſkin, and much reſembling the firſt appearance of ſmall-pox. This eruption gradually ſpread itſelf over his whole body, and the puſtules continued every day to increaſe in ſize.

Upon being received into the hoſpital, he complained of head-ach, ſickneſs at ſtomach, oppreſſion about the præcordia, thirſt, ſore-throat, with difficulty of ſwallowing; his tongue was foul, his ſkin felt hot and feveriſh, pulſe from 110 to 120, rather depreſſed; belly coſtive, eyes dull and languid, but without delirium. The whole ſurface of his ſkin was interſperſed with veſicles, or phlyctænæ, of the ſize of an ordinary walnut, many of them were larger, eſpecially on the arms and breaſt. In the interſtices, between the veſicles, the appearance of the ſkin was natural, nor was there any redneſs round their baſe; the diſtance from one to another, was from half an inch to a hand-breadth, or more. In ſome places, two or three were joined together, like the puſtules in the confluent ſmall-pox. A few veſicles had burſt

burſt of themſelves, and formed a whitiſh ſcab, or cruſt. Theſe were moſtly on the neck and face; others ſhewed a tolerably laudable pus. However, by far the greateſt number were perfectly entire, turgid, and of a bluiſh colour. Upon opening them, it was evident, that the cuticle elevated above the cutis, and diſtended with a thin, yellowiſh, ſemipellucid ſerum, formed this appearance. Nor was the ſurface of the cutis ulcerated, or livid, but of a red florid colour, as when the cuticle is ſeparated by a bliſter, or ſuperficial burning. No other perſon laboured under a ſimilar diſeaſe, either in the part of the country from which he came, or when he reſided in Aberdeen.

This caſe was treated in the following manner. The largeſt of the veſicles were ſnipped, and dreſſed with Uguent. e Lap. Calaminari. In the evening he was vomited with a ſolution of tartar emetic, given in ſmall quantities, and at intervals. This alſo procured two looſe ſtools. And he was ordered for drink, water-gruel, acidulated with lemon-juice.

April 16. He ſtill complained of ſickneſs, ſome oppreſſion about his breaſt, and ſore throat; he had ſlept little during the night, his

his tongue was foul and blackiſh, his ſkin, however, was not ſo hot as the preceding day, his urine was high-coloured, but had the appearance of ſeparation; his pulſe 90, and ſoft; moſt of the ſores on the trunk of the body looked clean. Others, particularly where the veſicles were confluent, ſeemed beginning to ulcerate, and to have a bluiſh ſublivid appearance. They were dreſſed afreſh with cerate, and he was ordered the following medicines:

℞ Decoct. Cort. Peruvian. ℥vi. Vini Rubr. Luſitan. ℥iii. M. Hujus mixturæ capiat. ℥ß. tertia quaque hora.

His acidulated drink was continued; and, on account of the very offenſive ſmell on approaching near him, ſome vinegar was placed in a baſon before the bed, and ſprinkled on the floor; and the room was kept properly aired.

April 17. His ſores looked tolerably clean, unleſs on his arms and thighs; where they were livid, a little ulcerated, and diſcharged a bloody ichor.

His head-ach, ſickneſs, &c. were moſtly gone; his tongue was rather cleaner; pulſe 68, and ſoft. As the decoction of the bark ſit eaſily

on

on his ftomach, the following prefcription was ordered.

> ℞ Pulv. Subtiliff. Cort. Peruv. ʒ ß. Vini Rubri Lufitan. Aquæ fontan. āā ℥ ß. M. ft. Hauft. tertiâ quaque hora repetend.

The acidulated drink was continued, and frefh dreffings applied to the fores.

April 18. The little ulcers on his arms and thighs ftill difcharged a bloody ichor, and looked ill; his other complaints were better; pulfe 82. The bark had not naufeated him, and it was continued as well as his former drink.

April 19. His fores looked greatly cleaner and better; the fever was gone, his pulfe natural, and had no complaint but weaknefs, and a troublefome itching of the fkin: the Peruvian bark, &c. were continued.

April 20. Some of the ulcers ftill poured forth a bloody ichor; moft of them, however, looked well, and had begun to heal—fever gone—medicines continued.

From the 21ft of April, he went on gaining ftrength, and his fores appeared to heal faft; he was defired to take only four dofes of bark every day; and by the 27th, his fores, &c. were totally dried up—he had no complaint—was difmiffed cured.

Although I had never before ſeen a caſe ſimilar to the above, yet I did not heſitate to conclude, that the diſeaſe belonged to the tribe of exanthemata; and had, in a greater or leſs degree, a putrid tendency: having formed this idea, it was evident, that if a remiſſion of the fever could be procured, the bark, with acids, were the remedies moſt to be truſted to.

Upon looking into the Noſologia Methodica of M. de Sauvages, and examining the different genera of the order of exanthemata, I found that the character of his 93d Genus, to which he gives the name of *Pemphigus*, almoſt coincided in every particular with the hiſtory given above; and that of the four ſpecies into which he divides this genus, the preſent caſe was clearly the firſt of theſe, or the *Pemphigus Major.*

Both Dr. Cullen and Vogel nearly agree with Sauvages in their character of this genus of the exanthemata. The former alſo, gives it the name of *Pemphigus*, and the latter that *Febris Bulloſa.* Carolus Piſo too, in his Conſilia Selecta, gives the hiſtory of a caſe nearly ſimilar; and the *Febris Syneches cum Veſiculis per pectus & Collum Sparſis* of Dr. Morton, ſeems alſo to belong to the ſame genus.

IV. *Hiſ-*

IV.

History of an uncommon Case in Delivery. By Dr. Robert Maitland, *of Edinburgh. Communicated to Dr.* Duncan.

EARLY in the morning of the 5th of Auguſt, I was called to the aſſiſtance of a poor woman, in labour of her firſt child. She was about 28 years old, and of a very ſmall ſtature, though without any apparent deformity. I was informed by the midwife who attended, that her pains had been frequent and ſevere ſince the morning of the preceding day, that the membranes had burſt, and the waters come away, mixed with blood, an hour before my arrival; and that ever ſince, pure blood had continued to flow copiouſly from the vagina. I was further told, that there was ſomething extraordinary in the caſe, and that I muſt immediately take ſome method of delivering the patient, who was ſinking under a violent flooding.

The pulſe was indeed feeble, and I was a good deal alarmed, when upon touching to examine the progreſs of the labour, and diſ-

cover what there might be uncommon in the case, I found, covering the os externum, a large soft tumor, very much resembling in feel the membranes of the fœtus, when far protruded before they break in delivery. So, much, indeed, had it this appearance, that I did not, for some time, find out the deception, till by gliding my finger all around the base of the swelling, I came at last to the os externum, where I found the child's head presenting, and strictly locked in the pelvis. The tumor, though it thus spread itself all over the mouth of the vagina, now evidently appeared to be an enlargement of the right labium pudendi only. It was nearly as large as a new-born child's head, and the inside of the labium was turned so much outwards, that on the first application of the hand, the skin and hairs of the parts was not at all felt. In short, on the surface there was no mark by which to distinguish it from the protruded membranes; and I am apt to suspect the midwife had in reality fallen into this mistake; and that an opening into it, which I now discovered on the inside, had been made by her on that supposition. It was big enough to admit my middle finger, and from it the discharge of blood, formerly mentioned, evidently proceeded.

Having

Having never read of any complaint of this kind happening during delivery, and never before met with any ſuch in practice, I immediately reſolved to conſult Dr. Young, a gentleman to whom I lie under the greateſt obligations. He was of opinion, that little or no danger was to be apprehended from the bleeding; as in theſe parts, a rupture of any conſiderable blood-veſſels was ſcarcely to be ſuſpected, and adviſed to wait patiently for the delivery, when he imagined the ſwelling would ſubſide.

In the mean time, it was fomented with a ſtrong infuſion of chamomile flowers, and the hard parts, round the baſe of it, rubbed with camphorated ſpirit of wine; but this laſt application was afterwards laid aſide, as occaſioning ſevere pain when it touched, or approached the lips of the orifice. In the intervals of the fomentation, a warm cloth was kept conſtantly applied.

The birth advanced with a gradual, though ſlow progreſs, and before night, the ſize of the ſwelling was conſiderably diminiſhed; the flow of pure blood had ſtopt, and only clots continued from time to time coming away.

Aug. 6. This morning the tumor was much the ſame as laſt night, and remained ſo till ſix in the evening, when the patient was delivered. Three hours after this, it had very much ſubſided, and I ordered the ſame applications to be continued.

Aug. 7. She had an incontinence of urine, and complained much of pain in the bottom of the belly; and I diſcovered, that in the birth, the perinæum had been lacerated almoſt quite to the anus, though it had eſcaped the obſervation of the midwife who delivered her. The ſwelling was almoſt quite gone, and only diſcharged a ſmall quantity of purulent matter from the edges of the orifice.

The parts were waſhed frequently with milk and water, and the lacerated perinæum dreſſed with Ung. Baſil. Flav. The diſcharge, which was at firſt extremely offenſive, ſoon became leſs ſo, and diminiſhed in quantity. The incontinence of urine continued only two or three days, and the patient had a very good recovery.

Some Obſervations on the CASE.

The caſe of our patient is one that very ſeldom occurs; Dr. Young, in the courſe of a long

long and extenſive practice, never met with an inſtance of it; the only perſon, indeed, that I know of who has ſeen or deſcribed it is Dr. M'Bride, of Dublin, Vid. Lond. Med. Obſerv. Vol. V. But there is a difference betwixt the two examples he relates, and the one now under conſideration, both the former appeared after delivery, the later began during the labour, and therefore we have thought proper to deſcribe it, eſpecially with a view to prevent the danger of miſtaking it for the protruſion of the membranes of the fœtus, diſtended by the waters, a miſtake which could not fail to occaſion much confuſion and groundleſs apprehenſion.

After finding that the ſwelling was confined to one of the labia pudendi, I ſuſpected it to be a hernia; but as the patient had never perceived any enlargement in that place before her in-lying, this ſuppoſition was not probable; and upon introducing my finger at the opening, I was ſoon convinced that there was nothing contained in it but coagulated blood.

It would ſeem that by the preſſure of the child's head, and the violent ſtretching of the parts during the labour pains, ſome of the ſmall blood-veſſels had been burſt, and had depo-

depoſited a quantity of blood in the cellular membrane, which is interpoſed betwixt the doublings of the ſkin that form the labia pudendi. That this is the nature of the ſwelling appears more probable, when we compare it to the hæmorrhoids, which it exactly reſembles; and I am perſuaded that the ſame aſtringent applications which are proper in them, would, likewiſe, in this caſe, be the beſt remedies. With regard to the orifice, which we have conjectured to have been made by the midwife, it muſt be allowed, that the ſwelling may have burſt of its own accord; yet I am inclined to think otherwiſe, from its having happened before the internal lining of the vagina, (a firm, compact, membrane) could, in all probability, have given way, and from the great difficulty there was of diſtinguiſhing the ſwelling from the ſurface of the protruded membranes.

I purpoſely avoid ſaying any thing of the incontinence of urine, or the laceration of the perinæum; they are not uncommon accidents in laborious caſes; nor would an account of them contribute to the right underſtanding the ſwelling, which alone I meant to deſcribe.

SECT. III.

Medical News.

MR. Andrew Lumifden, in a letter to Charles Webfter, one of the phyficians to the Public Difpenfary at Edinburgh, dated at Montbard, Sept. 20, 1778, gives the following account of a work in which that juftly celebrated philofopher M. le Comte de Buffon has been lately engaged.

" M. le Comte de Buffon has been pleafed to communicate to me, partly printed, and partly in manufcript, Les Epoques de la Nature, which he will foon prefent to the public. The learned, eloquent, and amiable author feems to have excelled even himfelf, in this ingenious and fublime work. I have not at

at prefent time to analize, and fhall therefore only attempt to give you a flight idea of it.

" As in civil hiftory we confult records, we examine medals, we decipher ancient infcriptions, to determine epochs of human revolutions, and to eftablifh the dates of moral events; fo in natural hiftory we muft examine the archives of the world, draw from the bowels of the earth its ancient monuments, collect its ruins, and unite, in a body of proofs, all the marks of phyfical changes, which may point out to us the different ages of the world. This is the only means to fix fome epochs in the immenfity of fpace, and to place a certain number of *mile-ftones* in the road of time.

" This is what M. de Buffon has done in his Hiftory of the Epochs of Nature. His theory is founded on the following principles, viz.

" 1ft. The earth is elevated at the equator, and flattened at the poles, in the proportion that the laws of gravity and centrifugal force require.

" 2°. The terreftrial globe has interior heat, which is proper to it, and which is independent of that which the rays of the fun can communicate to it.

" 3°.

"3°. The heat which the ſun beſtows on the earth is ſmall, compared to the proper heat of the terreſtrial globe; and the heat of the ſun would not be ſufficient to keep nature alive.

"4°. The matter of which the terreſtrial globe is compoſed, is, in general, of the nature of glaſs, and may be reduced to glaſs.

"5°. We find on the ſurface of the earth, and even in mountains from 1500 to 2000 toiſes high, a vaſt quantity of ſhells, of the production of the ſea.

"Having eſtabliſhed theſe principles, by a variety of proofs and obſervations, he traces ſeven epochs of nature.

"1. When the earth and planets acquired their form.

"2. When matter, being conſolidated, formed the interior rock of the globe, as well as the great vitrifiable maſſes which are on its ſurface.

"3. When the waters covered our continent.

"4. When the waters retired, and the volcanos began to act.

"5. When the elephants, and other animals of the ſouth, lived in the countries of the north.

"6.

" 6. When the continents were feparated. And,

" 7. When the power of man feconded that of nature.

" In eftablifhing thefe epochs, he is obliged to make the world much older than we commonly fuppofe it. He therefore interprets Mofes's fix days of the creation, to mean fix different periods, diftant from each other.

" It was on account of Les Epoques de la Nature, that M. Gueneau de Montbeillard, the friend and affociate worthy of M. de Buffon, made him the following compliment on his birth-day, the 7th of this month.

O jour heureux qui vis naitre Buffon
Nous te beniffons tous avec effufion
Et tu fera chez la race future
Pour les amis du vrai, du beau, de la raifon
Une Epoque de la Nature.

* * * * *

The following account of a method by which the inhabitants of the weftern ifles of Scotland, excite a fever and cure the rickets, has lately been communicated to Dr. Duncan, by an ingenious gentleman, in whofe veracity and accuracy our readers may put great dependence.

" We

"We are indebted to the moſt uncultivated part of mankind for many uſeful diſcoveries, eſpecially in medicine; and however inexplicable they may be by our theories, yet even the moſt unpromiſing of them deſerve attention and trial, more eſpecially when they may prove uſeful in ſaving the lives of many of our fellow-creatures.

"The medicine made uſe of in the weſtern iſlands for the cure of the rickets, is an oil extracted from the liver of the ſkate-fiſh. The method of application is as follows. Firſt, the wriſts and ancles are rubbed with the oil in the evening; this immediately raiſes a fever of ſeveral hours duration; when the fever from the firſt rubbing ſubſides, the ſame parts are rubbed again the night following, and repeatedly, as long as the rubbing of theſe parts continues to excite the fever: after no fever can be excited by rubbing the wriſts and ancles alone, they are rubbed again along with the knees and elbows. This increaſed unction brings on the fever again; and is practiſed as before, till it no longer has that effect. Then the vertebræ and ſides are rubbed along with the former parts, and this unction, which again brings on the fever, is repeated as the former. When

no

no fever can be longer excited by this unction, a flannel shirt, dipped in the oil, is put upon the body of the patient; this brings on a more violent and sensible fever than any of the former unctions, and is continued till the cure is completed, which commonly it is in a short time."

* * * * *

The following account of the good effects derived from the powder of the Verrucæ Equinæ in cancerous affections, has been recommended to Dr. Duncan, by Mr. John Bell, one of the clerks in the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh.

"I lately received a very extraordinary history of the effects of the powder of the Verrucæ Æquinæ, in a case of cancer, from a surgeon in very great practice in the south of Scotland.

"A lady had been cut for a scirrhous mamma, and in about a year and a half after the operation, several small ill-conditioned ulcers appeared about the cicatrix of the former wound. Two eminent physicians were consulted: they advised the use of mercury, with the decoct. lignorum; and at the same time observed that they did not expect to be of much service to her,

her, as, from all appearances, ſhe was dying very faſt. Theſe remedies were tried without any benefit, and when ſhe was reduced to the loweſt ſtate, this medicine was eagerly graſped at by her friends. Her ſurgeon, in order to pleaſe them, prepared a quantity of it, and gave it to her in the doſe of ʒij twice or thrice a day. Its operation was by ſweating, which, he ſays, it produced very powerfully. Soon after this, the ulcers began to look better, the flying pains abated, her appetite and colour returned. She was again reſtored to as good health as ſhe had enjoyed for ſome years before. However, ſhe at the ſame time had a prolapſus uteri, and ſeveral other bad ſymptoms concurring, unconnected with the complaint of her breaſt, ſhe was brought to the ſame weak ſtate in which ſhe had formerly been, and is now either dead or dying. Still, however, ſhe continues the Pulvis Verrucæ Æquinæ, and ſince ſhe began the uſe of it, has been free from the pain in her breaſt, and the flying pains over her body, which formerly gave her ſo much uneaſineſs. The ſores never healed, but the diſcharge from them was perfectly mild.

" I am alſo informed by the ſame gentleman, that a lady in Cockermouth has been

completely cured of a cancer in her breaſt, which had returned after the operation, entirely, as he ſays, by the uſe of the ſame remedy. She continued it for three months or upwards.

* * * * *

There is perhaps no function of the animal œconomy which has been more the ſubject of inquiry and experiment, than that power by which living animals generate heat. Although many hypotheſes have been offered concerning this function, yet no theory has been preſented to the public, ſupported on arguments ſo convincing, as to obtain general belief, at leaſt for any length of time; and indeed, almoſt every ingenious phyſiologiſt, probably from his being ſenſible of the objections which occurred to the theories contended for by others, has on this ſubject held an opinion peculiar to himſelf.

While Dr. Duncan taught the inſtitutions of medicine in the Univerſity of Edinburgh, during the winter 1774, he endeavoured to refute not only the common hypotheſes on this ſubject which are to be found in phyſiological ſyſtems, and which refers animal heat to mixture, putrefaction, friction, or ſimilar cauſes,

but

but likewiſe the doctrines which were taught by thoſe ingenious and learned profeſſors, Dr. Cullen and Black; the firſt of whom imagined that animal heat was to be explained from oſcillations excited in the nervous fluid, while the laſt referred it to the effect of reſpiration on the living ſyſtem. After ſtating what to him appeared to be objections ſufficiently valid for overturning their opinions, he ſubmitted to the conſideration of the ſtudents, a conjecture of his own with reſpect to the cauſe of this property, poſſeſſed by living animal bodies.

Dr. Duncan's hypotheſis is, that animal heat is produced by the evolution of the phlogiſton, or principle of inflammability, contained in the blood; and that this evolution is brought about by the action of the blood-veſſels.

This doctrine, which Dr. Duncan then taught and ſtill teaches, he endeavours to prove by attempting to demonſtrate the following propoſitions.

1. That the blood does contain phlogiſton.

2. That this phlogiſton is evolved, extricated, or brought into a ſtate of activity and motion, by the action of the blood-veſſels to which it is ſubjected in the courſe of circulation.

3. That the evolution of phlogiſton is a cauſe which, through nature, produces heat, whether that heat be apparently excited by mixture, fermentation, percuſſion, friction, inflammation, ignition, or any ſimilar cauſe.

And laſtly, that this heat, which muſt be produced in conſequence of the evolution of the phlogiſton from the blood of different animals, is, in all probability, equal to the higheſt degree of heat which theſe animals in any caſe poſſeſs.

Having thus endeavoured to prove, that the cauſe which he aſſigns for animal heat, does exiſt, and is adequate to the effect which he aſcribes to it; he next attempts to ſhew, that this theory explains all the phenomena of animal heat; and he thinks that upon this ground, a rational and ſatisfactory explanation may be given of all thoſe circumſtances which have been employed by modern phyſiologiſts as arguments in ſupport of particular theories, or as objections to them. Among other phenomena, he endeavours to account for the general connection which the heat of the human body has with the motion of the blood; for thoſe ſtriking exceptions to this which occur in ſome particular inſtances, and which afford unſurmountable

ſurmountable objections to the theories referring animal heat to friction or ſimilar cauſes; for the equality of heat in every part of the ſyſtem in a ſtate of health; for the increaſe or diminution of it in particular parts, which ſometimes takes place in diſeaſe; for the ſtability of heat in animals of every different genus, while they continue in a healthful condition, although they be expoſed to very different degrees of heat in the ſurrounding atmoſphere; for the connexion which the heat of animals of different genera, and even of the ſame animal at different times, has with the ſtate of reſpiration; and laſtly, for the degree of heat which different animals poſſeſs, being greater or leſs in proportion as their circulating fluids have more or leſs of a red colour. From the conſideration of theſe different particulars, Dr. Duncan is led to conclude, that the ready explanation which this theory affords of the leading phenomena, tends greatly to confirm the evidence in ſupport of it, drawn from other circumſtances.

Among the gentlemen who attended Dr. Duncan's lectures at the time when he firſt taught this doctrine was, Dr. Patrick Dugud Leſlie, now phyſician at Durham, who not

only adopted the opinion, but ſoon afterwards made it the ſubject of his inaugural diſſertation, when he obtained the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the univerſity of Edinburgh. In that Diſſertation, which is entitled, De Caloris Animalium Cauſa Diſſertatio, and which Dr. Dugud publicly defended on September 12, 1775, beſides employing the reaſoning which had before been uſed by Dr. Duncan, he ſupports the hypotheſis by many other ingenious arguments. Since that time Dr. Dugud's attention has, it ſeems, been much employed upon this ſubject, and he lately diſtributed the proſpectus of a work which is already in the preſs, and will ſpeedily be publiſhed. This work is entitled, A Philoſophical Enquiry into the Cauſe of Animal Heat, with incidental Obſervations on ſeveral Phyſiological and Chymical Queſtions connected with the ſubject.

According to the analyſis which has been diſtributed, the principal ſubjects incidentally treated of are the following:

1ſt. Nature and properties of phlogiſton, or the elementary principle of fire.

2. The cauſe of the augmentation of weight in metallic calcinations.

3. The cauſe of colour in the blood and bile.

4. The

4. The final cause of respiration.

5. The changes which atmospherical air suffers by contributing to inflammation, or by entering the lungs of living animals.

6. The principal doctrines of the nature of fire.

7. The phenomenon of the ethereal medium, the electric fluid and phlogiston, with proofs of their identity.

8. The nature of light.

9. The extensive influence of the phlogistic fluid in the operations of nature.

10. The general laws of heat, &c.

Although many of these inquiries cannot be considered as strictly connected with the cause of animal heat, yet they respect interesting questions in natural science; and the presumption is, that the lover of philosophy, as well as the physiologist, may find amusement in the perusal of what is said with respect to them.

* * * * *

We have already given some account of the building erected at Edinburgh, for the use of the Medical Society of that place. Every one who has formerly been acquainted with

the Society, and who has ſtill an opportunity of viſiting it, is now fully ſenſible of the advantages which have reſulted from this meaſure. We cannot give a better account of its preſent ſtate than in the words of a very elegant valedictory addreſs, delivered by Dr. Parry, one of their preſidents, at the concluſion of the laſt winter ſeſſion.

"Ever ſince the inſtitution of the Medical Society, it has continued to grow and flouriſh. Its debates have been conducted with a liberal ſpirit of inquiry. Truth has been allured from her deepeſt receſſes, and exhibited in all her native charms.

"Error, however ſheltered, and however diſguiſed, has been boldly arreſted, ſtripped of every adventitious ornament, and expoſed in all his genuine deformity. The knowing have freely communicated their knowledge; the uninformed have profited; and all have reaped their ſhare of the general harveſt of ſcience.

"During a long reſidence in this univerſity, I have been myſelf a witneſs of its growing worth; and I can with truth declare, that I have never ſeen that period when it has been adorned with ſo many able ſpeakers, or enriched

riched with ſo many excellent diſſertations, as during the paſt ſeſſion. We have been favoured with numerous eſſays, which would have done honour to the moſt active experimenter, the profoundeſt reaſoner, the moſt experienced practitioner, and even the ableſt rhetorician."

But even in this flouriſhing ſtate, the ſociety ſtill found, that from their not being a corporate body, there were difficulties in obtaining complete titles to their real property, and in ſecuring and managing both it and their valuable collection of medical books, and other moveable effects, ſo that they might remain with the ſociety in perpetual ſucceſſion, agreeable to the deſign of the contributors. They were therefore adviſed to preſent a petition to his majeſty, praying, that he would be moſt graciouſly pleaſed to grant his royal charter, or letters patent, erecting them into a body politic, or legal incorporation. In conſequence of this petition, his majeſty has granted a warrant, dated at St. James's, the 14th day of December, 1778, from which the following clauſe is extracted.

" His majeſty being ſatisfied that the deſign of the petitioners is laudable, and that they de-

deferve encouragement, does therefore ordain a patent, or charter, to be paffed, or expede under the feal appointed by the treaty of Union, to be kept and ufed in Scotland, in place of the great feal formerly ufed there, conftituting, erecting, and incorporating, as his majefty, by his prerogative royal, and fpecial grace, for himfelf, and his royal fucceffors, hereby conftitutes, erects, and incorporates, and perpetually eftablifhes and confirms, the faid Robert Freer, James Melliar, Andrew Wardrop, and Caleb Parry, and their fucceffors, prefidents of the faid fociety for the time being; and other perfons, who now are, or hereafter fhall be, members of the faid fociety, into one body, politic and corporate, or legal incorporation, under the name and title of *The Medical Society of Edinburgh*; and as fuch, and by fuch name, to have perpetual endurance and fucceffion; and to be able and capable to take and hold property, real and perfonal, and to fue, plead, defend, and anfwer; and to be fued, impleaded, defended, and anfwered, in all, or any of his majefty's courts of juftice, and in other refpects to act, or do, agreeable to the law and practice of his majefty's kingdoms in like cafes.

While

While this grant will put the property of the ſociety, on the moſt ſecure, convenient, and honourable foundation, it cannot fail alſo, to contribute to the extenſion of their literary uſefulneſs; and it muſt prompt every member to exert redoubled efforts, in endeavouring to render the ſociety worthy of this pre-eminence.

That the expence of this charter might not prevent the ſociety from ſpeedily completing thoſe parts of their building which are ſtill unfiniſhed; and particularly that it might not retard them in fitting up the apartments intended for chymical and philoſophical experiments, a ſubſcription was ſome time ago ſet on foot among the members of the ſociety, for defraying this additional expence; and many of thoſe who formerly contributed towards the building of the hall, have again become contributors for this purpoſe, among which number are all the preſent medical profeſſors. It is hoped alſo, that many others, who neither want ability nor inclination to give aid to an inſtitution calculated ſolely for the advancement of medical ſcience, will not overlook the preſent exertions of the Medical Society; and that its members in particular, wherever they are, will, according to their reſ-

pective

pective powers, contribute, and promote contributions, which may tend to the completion of those valuable objects at which the society aims.

Contributions are received at Edinburgh by Dr. Andrew Wardrop, Dr. Edward Stevens, Mr. Stephen Pellet, and Mr. John Ford, present annual presidents of the society; or by Dr. Andrew Duncan, present treasurer. Contributions will also be regularly transmitted to the society when paid at London, to Mr. John Murray, Bookseller, N° 32, Fleet-street.

* * * * *

The History of Epedemics, by Hippocrates, in seven books, translated into English, with notes and observations by Samuel Farr, M. D. has been for some time in the press, and will speedily be published. It is in general allowed that this work of Hippocrates contains not only the most ancient but the most valuable observations in physic and surgery. The presenting it therefore to the public, in a proper English dress, is an undertaking well meriting approbation and encouragement. And the proofs which Dr. Farr has already, on many occasions, given of his literary abilities, sufficiently

ciently demonſtrate that he is by no means unequal to the taſk he has undertaken. We may therefore hope that the loſs which many practitioners ſuſtain, from their not being able to have ready acceſs to the original, will be in a great meaſure compenſated by this tranſlation.

* * * * *

A Medical Regiſter for the year 1779 is propoſed to be printed at London, and continued annually. This work is intended to include a general catalogue of the phyſicians, ſurgeons, and apothecaries in Great Britain and Ireland, and likewiſe of the profeſſors of medicine in our own and foreign univerſities, and of many eminent phyſicians and ſurgeons on the continent. But in the proſpectus of this work, which has been publiſhed, the editors obſerve, that they do not mean to offer it to the public merely as a regiſter of names. They propoſe alſo to give ſhort accounts of all the incorporated medical bodies in Great Britain and Ireland, of the different medical charities throughout theſe kingdoms, and of the Britiſh and foreign univerſities, as far at leaſt at reſpects the medical department. Beſides theſe, many other articles are mentioned in the general view

of the contents of the work, which muſt equally ſerve to gratify curioſity and to afford inſtruction. Among other particulars, they propoſe to conclude the work with a catalogue of the medical books publiſhed in different parts of Europe during the year 1778, giving a conciſe character of ſuch as are worthy of notice. This article alone, if it be properly executed, cannot fail to render the work highly acceptable to every lover of medical ſcience. And as it is intended that the publication ſhall be an annual one, under this head new and important materials will conſtantly be afforded. The editors ſtrenuouſly ſolicit the kind aſſiſtance of gentlemen of the faculty reſident in the Britiſh dominions, in ſending liſts of the practitioners ſettled in different cities and towns, and accounts of the ſeveral county infirmaries. And they deſire that correſpondents will be pleaſed to ſend their letters addreſſed to Mr. John Murray, bookſeller, Nº 32, Fleet-ſtreet, London.

* * * * *

We formerly mentioned that Mr. Andrew Bell, an eminent engraver in Edinburgh, was eagaged in preparing for publication a new edition of the tables of the ſkeleton and muſ-

cles

cles of the human body, by Dr. Bernard Siegfried Albinus, tranſlated from the Latin. And as a ſpecimen of this work, three tables of the bones, and one of the muſcles, were publiſhed about a year ago. We have the pleaſure of informing our readers, that the remaining part of the tables are now finiſhed, and that the whole will be ſpeedily publiſhed. As far as we are capable of judging, theſe engravings are executed in ſuch a manner as muſt render this work a very valuable addition to the library of every lover of anatomy. And if it has ſuffered in ſome particulars from the reduction of the ſize, it is thereby rendered both more commodious, and much cheaper than any former edition, while at the ſame time all the parts and characters appear to be expreſſed with equal diſtinctneſs. And the outlines are engraved in a bolder manner than in the original, which renders the expreſſion of the different parts more apparent.

* * * * *

Dr. Alexander Monro, profeſſor of anatomy at Edinburgh, has lately taught in his lectures many particulars reſpecting the brain and nerves, which are entirely new, and which

muſt

muſt lead to very different opinions reſpecting theſe organs, from what any phyſiologiſts have hitherto entertained. He has alſo read a paper on the ſame ſubject in the Philoſophical Society of Edinburgh.

Of his deſcriptions, which are founded entirely on microſcopical obſervation, conjoined with nice diſſection, and which are illuſtrated by numerous engravings, we cannot at preſent pretend to give a ſufficient account. We may only obſerve, that he finds the ſtructure of theſe parts to be very different from what was formerly imagined. He has diſcovered that the brain and nerves, in all claſſes of animals, in place of ſtraight fibres are every where compoſed of convoluted fibres, nearly $\frac{1}{9000}$ part of an inch in diameter, which do not ſeem to be hollow, but ſolid.

He finds that their extent in the ſyſtem is much greater than has ever been believed; and that they not only enter the compoſition of parts intended for ſenſe and motion, but alſo of every other part of the body. Thus he has diſcovered them penetrating to the very extremities of the longeſt hairs; and in great numbers entering the compoſition of the cuticule and nails. He farther alledges, that the

bulk

bulk of all our organs depends chiefly on their nerves; and that when muſcles or bowels are cut tranſverſely, many more nerves are divided than when the ſame operation is done upon the cord, called by anatomiſts the nerve of that part.

He finds alſo, that a ſyſtem of convoluted fibres, in every reſpect analogous to the nerves of the human body, is to be diſcovered throughout the whole vegetable kingdom. Nay, that the metals, ſemi-metals, earths, and ſalts, conſiſt almoſt entirely of convoluted and ſerpentine fibres, ſimilar to the nerves of animals in ſize and ſhape.

How far the teſtimony of future obſervers will confirm Dr. Monro's deſcriptions, is not for us to determine. But we may venture without heſitation to aſſert, that if the account which he has given ſtands the teſt of ſceptical ſcrutiny, it muſt be conſidered as the greateſt anatomical diſcovery which has been made for many years.

* * * * *

A Hiſtory of Edinburgh, by Hugo Arnot, eſq. advocate, is in the preſs, and will ſpeedily be publiſhed, in which a full and accurate account is given of the Medical ſchools at that place.

SECT. IV.

List of New Books.

AN enquiry into the original ſtate and formation of the earth; deduced from facts, and the laws of nature. To which is added an appendix, containing ſome general obſervations on the ſtrata in Derbyſhire, with ſections of them, repreſenting their arrangement, affinities, and the mutations they have ſuffered at different periods of time; intended to illuſtrate preceding inquiries, and as a ſpecimen of ſubterraneous geography. By John Whitehurſt. 4to. London.

Hiſtorical and practical enquiries on the ſection of the ſymphyſis of the pubis, as a ſubſtitute for the Cæſarian operation, performed at Paris by Mr. Sigault, October 2d, 1777. By Mr. Alphonſe le Roy, Doctor Regent of the Faculty of Phyſic in Paris, and Profeſſor of Midwifery, &c. Tranſlated from the French by Lewis Poignand, of the Corporation

tion of Surgeons, London, and Surgeon to the Weſtminſter Lying-in-hoſpital. 8vo. London.

An experimental ſyſtem of metallurgy, with general remarks and explanations. By the late John Henry Hampe, M. D. fellow of the Imperial Academy; and of the Royal Society of London. Folio. London.

An eſſay on the eryſipelas, or that diſorder commonly called St. Anthony's fire. By James Bureau, member of the corporation of Surgeons. 8vo. London.

Theſaurus medicus ſive diſputationum in academia Edinenſi, ad rem medicam pertinentium a collegio inſtituto ad hoc uſque tempus, delectus, a Gulielmo Smellio, S. P. E. S. Habitus. Tom. 2. 8vo. Edinburghi.

Memoires ſur le maniere dont les animaux ſont affectes par differens fluides aeriformes, mephiliques et ſur les moyens de remedier aux effets de ces fluides. P. M. Bucquet. 8vo. Paris.

Memoire ſur le philogiſtique conſideré comme le cauſe du devclloppement de la vie. Par M. Senebier. 8vo. Geneve.

Precis de la matiere medicale contenant ce qu'il importe de ſavoir ſur la nature, les propriétés et les doſes des medicamens tant ſimples qu' officinaux, avec un grand nombre de formules: par M. Lieutaud, Docteur Regent de la faculté de medecine de Paris, premier medecin du Roi, de l' Academie Royale de Paris, & de la Société Royale de Londres, nouvelle edition, revue par l' auteur, deux volumes, 4to. Paris.

Recherches phyſiques ſur la nature de l'air nitreux & de l'air dephlogiſtique, par M. l' Abbé Felix Fontana, phyſicien de S. A. R. le grand Duc de Toſcane, & directeur de cabinet royal d' hiſtoire naturelle a Florence, 8vo. Paris.

Eloge hiſtorique de M. Theophile de Bordeu, Docteur regent de la faculté de medecine de Paris, medicin de Montpellier: par J. J. Gardane, Docteur regent de la faculté de medecine de Paris. 8vo. Paris.

Inſtruction abregée ſur les maladies des enfans, par A. J. B. M. Guenet, Docteur regent de la faculté de medecine. 8vo. Paris.

Diſſertation ſur l' huile de Palma Chriſti ou l' huile de Ricin que l'on appelle communément

ment huile de Caſtor, &c. par le Docteur Pierre Canvane, medecin a Bath; ouvrage traduit de l'Anglois, par M. Homart de la Chapelle, medecin de Paris. 8vo. Paris.

Detail des ſucces de l'etabliſſement que la ville de Paris, a fait en faveur des perſonnes noyées & qui a été adopté dans diverſes provinces de France. Cinquieme partie. On y a joint differentes obſervations & divers avis ſur les perſonnes ſuffoquées par des effets mephitiques quelconques, dont la plûpart ont été rappelles a la vie par des moyens analogues a ceux qu'on emploie en faveur des noyes: par M. Pia, ancien echevin de la ville de Paris. 12mo. Paris.

Memoire ſur les funeſtes effets du charbon, allumé, avec le detail des cures & des obſervations faites a Nancy ſur le même ſujet, par M. Harmant, membre de l' Academie des Sciences, & conſeiller-medecin ordinaire de feu S. M. le roi de Pologne, Duc de Lorraine & de Bar. 8vo. Nancy.

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MEDICAL

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL

COMMENTARIES.

By a SOCIETY in EDINBURGH.

L'Impatience du mal, l'amour de la vie, l'horreur de la mort, ſentiments auſſi naturels que celui de notre exiſtence, firent chercher aux hommes la guerison de leur maux.

DUJARDIN.

VOLUME SIXTH.

PART II.

LONDON:

Printed for J. MURRAY, No. 32. Fleet-ſtreet;

M. DRUMMOND, J. BELL, W. CREECH, and C. ELLIOT, *Edinburgh*;

M,DCC,LXXIX.

MEDICAL

COMMENTARIES.

SECT. I.

An Account of Books.

I.

Joannis Steidele *Chirurgiæ, et Artis Obſtetriciæ in Univerſitate Vindobonenſi Profeſſoris publici extraord. Obſervationes de Rupto in Partus doloribus Utero, Epicriſibus illuſtratæ.* 8vo. Vindobonæ.

IN this treatiſe five caſes are related of difficult labours, in which ruptures of the uterus occurred. In ſome of them our author was immediately concerned as a practitioner in midwifery; the others were communicated to him by friends and acquaintances.

In the firſt of theſe caſes, our author was called to the aſſiſtance of a woman who had been twelve days in labour. The account he got from the midwife, and another practitioner who attended, was, that the patient had formerly been delivered of eight children, and of all of them with tolerable eaſe; that the midwife, who now attended, and who officiated on all the other occaſions, on being called at this time, found the abdomen exceedingly tumid; but as the orifice of the uterus was ſomewhat dilated, and the head of the child preſented very favourably, ſhe had not the leaſt doubt of the labour going on eaſily. The membranes had burſt on the ſecond day from the commencement of the pains, and nothing farther had as yet been done than preſcribing ſome internal remedies for the relief of a moſt violent pain in the region of the os ſacrum. Our author, on examining the patient, found her very weak, her pulſe exceedingly quick, and frequently intermitting; ſhe was obliged to ſit in an erect poſture, as ſhe found herſelf in danger of ſuffocating on attempting to lay down in bed. He was told by the midwife, and likewiſe by Mr. Lebmacher, the other practitioner who attended, that the head of the child had always continued to preſent, and that the pain in

in the region of the ſacrum had continued without intermiſſion, till lately, that a ſudden cracking noiſe had been obſerved even by the byſtanders; immediately upon this the pains had abated, but a very conſiderable hæmorrhage had occurred from the vagina.

The head could not now be diſcovered, and the woman being in a very deſperate ſituation, our author judged it adviſeable to effect a delivery immediately by the feet, which was accordingly done, the child being dead; but as it did not appear to have been long ſo, ſome attempts were made for its recovery, though without effect.

Nothing was omitted that could with any probability be of ſervice to the mother; but no relief being obtained, ſhe at laſt died on the twelfth day after delivery. The belly had ſwelled to a very great degree, and any lochial diſcharge that had occurred was exceedingly fœtid, and of a dark brown colour. On opening the abdomen, after death, a vaſt quantity of bloody water was diſcharged, and alſo a great deal of very fœtid air. The omentum, ſtomach, and inteſtines, were greatly ſwelled and diſtended, and conſiderable adheſions occurred between different viſcera; an

extenſive rupture was found in the uterus, being internally of about four inches in length, and externally very nearly ſix inches.

The cavity of the uterus contained a quantity of black putrid blood, the body of the uterus itſelf, near to the ruptured parts, was gangrenous, but the peritonæum covering that viſcus was not in any degree affected.

The ſecond caſe here related was communicated to our author by Mr. Cranz. A woman having died in the courſe of a tedious labour, the Cæſarian operation was performed, ſoon after death, when the uterus was found ruptured to ſuch an extent as to admit of the body of the fœtus being almoſt wholly protruded into the cavity of the abdomen. The only circumſtance which occurred on diſſection as the cauſe of the rupture of the uterus, was, the ſize of the fœtus, which was much larger than uſual; and, from the account given by the midwife who attended, it had probably preſented in a preternatural direction.

Caſes third and fourth occurred, we are informed, to Mr. Lebmacher of Vienna. The Cæſarian operation was in both performed ſoon after the death of the mothers, but we are not informed whether either of the children were ſaved or not.

As a more concise and distinct account is given of the different circumstances which occurred in the fifth Case related by our author, than any of the preceding, we shall here transcribe the history.

He was called on the 22d of June to a woman newly dead in labour, with a view to save the child by the Cæsarian operation. The abdomen, instead of being tense, and of a roundish shape, was soft and collapsed, and the limbs of the child were very perceptable to the touch, upon pressure on the right side of the abdomen.

On making an incision into the left side of the abdomen, a great quantity of fluid blood burst out, together with the head of the child, and a dead fœtus was immediately extracted.

The size of the fœtus was less than usual at the eighth month of pregnancy, the colour of the skin appeared natural, nor was there any thing morbid discovered, and the placenta, being separated from the uterus, was extracted entire.

A rupture of considerable extent was detected in the anterior part of the uterus, a little above its neck, between that and the fun-

dus; the peritonæum, near to the laceration, was every way ſeparated from the uterus. The uterus appeared of a natural healthy colour externally, but its internal ſurface was ſomewhat ſpongy and gangrenous; the ligaments of the uterus, together with the ovaria and Fallopian tubes, were of a deep red colour. All the reſt of the viſcera appeared natural, but a conſiderable quantity of blood was found extravaſated in the abdomen, and the entrance to the pelvis, between the pubis and ſacrum, was ſomewhat more narrow than uſual.

The following is an account of circumſtances which preceded this woman's death, as obtained from the midwife, the huſband, and other relations. She was 35 years of age, had been liable to ſome abortions, but had nevertheleſs been delivered of ten children, of which ſeveral were then living. All her labours were tedious, and attended with convulſions; during this laſt pregnancy, ſhe frequently complained of a pain above the ilia, and upon the pelvis, which, at times, was very acute, and on other occaſions more tolerable; and about ſeven weeks before her death, ſhe fell upon the ſtreet, with her abdomen towards the ground, which left a kind of hot burning pain upon the

the parts thus particularly expoſed to the violence.

The day preceding that of her death, the patient was ſeized with burning pains over the abdomen, and on the region of the os ſacrum; and in the evening a ſmall degree of hæmorrhage from the pudenda was obſerved. On the midwife being called, ſhe could not diſtinguiſh properly whether the head of the child preſented or not, although the orifice of the uterus was ſomewhat dilated, and a very conſiderable weight was diſcovered about its neck.

The burning pains in the region of the ſacrum, and on the anterior part of the abdomen, became more violent, ſo as to be very tormenting. About two in the morning, the patient raiſed herſelf up in bed, paſſed her urine, and immediately fell down again, crying moſt violently with pain. The pain above the pubis was ſo exceſſive as to give a ſenſation as if fire was actually applied to the parts, and delirium, attended with convulſions, immediately occurred.

The midwife, at this time, although the orifice of the uterus ſtill remained dilated, could not diſcover any part of the fœtus; the hæmorrhage had now diſappeared, the patient ſome-

ſometimes vomited, and was troubled with frequent faintings; the face, hands, and feet became cold, and in a ſhort time thereafter ſhe died. A phyſician, who had been called in about an hour before death, preſcribed blood-letting, and ſome other remedies, but without any effect.

The midwife ſtill aſſerted that ſhe never could diſtinguiſh the head of the child; and ſhe likewiſe ſaid that ſhe could not diſcover the membranes, and that the waters never appeared. The patient during the laſt day of her life, loſt the uſe and feeling of her left arm, and could not move it in any degree, but with the aſſiſtance of her right hand. Our author, in his remarks on this and the preceding caſes, obſerves, that in this laſt caſe, the ſigns which commonly precede a rupture of the uterus were pretty manifeſt, particularly theſe pains in the regions of the oſſa ilia and pubis; that burning pain which in the beginning of the labour became ſo intolerable; the neck of the uterus always continuing high, and the child making no progreſs, although the labour-pains were pretty ſevere.

The ſymptoms which occurred on the rupture actually taking place, he obſerves, were very

very characteriſtic of this event, particularly that acute burning pain which inſtantly ſucceeded an effort to make water; the want of that weight at the orifice of the uterus, which the midwife had previouſly obſerved; together with the vomiting, delirium, and convulſions, which afterwards took place.

The cauſes which evidently occurred here for the rupture of the uterus, were, the many difficult labours which the patient had formerly undergone; a circumſtance which our author remarks, might probably tend to weaken the uterus; but the moſt immediate cauſe he ſuppoſes to be an inflammation, with that tendency to gangrene obſerved after death, and which, ſhe thinks, might probably be induced by that fall, we are told the woman met with, a ſhort time before her being taken ill.

When, from a very tedious labour, or other circumſtances, there is reaſon to ſuſpect that a rupture of the uterus may occur, we are directed, as the moſt certain preventative, to effect a delivery as quickly as poſſible, by turning the child, if the head preſents, and extracting by the feet.

In the five caſes here related by our author, the ruptures all occurred in different ſituations of

of the uterus, which gives him occafion to remark, that every part of that vifcus is equally liable to be ruptured.

II.

Georgii Haffner *Nofocomii Pazmarriani Chirurgi Differtatio Medico-Chirurgica, de Hydrope Articulorum.* 8*vo.* Vindobonæ.

BY dropfical fwellings of the joints, our author here means thofe tumors whofe contents are either preternatural quantities of the fynovia of joints, or collections of purulent, ferous, or watery fluids. All the joints of the body are fubject to this diforder, but it occurs more frequently, we are told, in the knee than in any other.

The following are enumerated by our author as the fymptoms of the firft ftage of the difeafe.

A pain is perceived on motion, which at firft is flight, but afterwards becomes very fevere. A foft colourlefs tumor is obferved, which yields fo much upon preffure, as to admit, when it affects the knee, of the condyles of the femur being felt. The fwelling is at firft equally diffufed over the patella and neighbouring parts; but as it encreafes in fize, it becomes frequently confined

to

to particular parts, insomuch, that on some occasions no tumor whatever is perceptible about the insertion of the tendon into the patella, while on one or both sides of it a very considerable degree of swelling takes place.— As the disease advances, the tumor, in some instances, arrives at very great degrees of magnitude, extending from two or three inches above the patella to an equal distance below it. In general, the fluctuation of a fluid is very evident; but when the matter happens to be deep, and especially when any degree of rigidity in the ligaments occurs, the fluctuation then becomes less perceptible.

These are the symptoms which usually occur in the more recent state of such swellings; but when the disorder has either been of long continuance, or has been improperly treated, it forms, as it were, a new disease, perfectly different from the original dropsy of the joint, to which, indeed, it at last comes to retain no kind of analogy.

In some such instances the collection of matter becomes so considerable as to occasion real dislocations of the joints; but when, from the strength of the articulation in the joints, dislocations do not occur, the stagnating fluids, either

either from the heat of the parts, or from their own proper acrimony, come to produce erofions, inflammations, and fuppurations of the ligaments and other foft parts, with carious affections of the bones, which at laft are commonly fucceeded by fever.

The caufe of dropfical fwellings of the joints, are referred by our author to two general heads. The firft comprehends whatever can produce an accumulation of the fynovia of the joints, and the fecond includes all fuch caufes as can occafion a depofition of any other kind of fluid in the cavities of joints.

Some affections of the joints are enumerated, with which diforders of this nature are apt to be confounded; the firft of thefe are fwellings of the fungous kind. The following are the means of diftinction pointed out by our author.

In the firft place he obferves, that fungous excrefcences are commonly fituated without the cavities of the joint, and are moveable with the fkin, whereas dropfical collections of this nature are always contained in the capfular ligaments of joints.

2d. The former moft frequently proceed from external violence, whereas the latter ufually arifes from fome internal caufe.

3d. The

3d. The want of fluctuation in tumors from fungous excrescencies afford another ground for distinction.

4th. The duration of fungous swellings, without an aggravation of symptoms, is commonly much more considerable than ever occurs from dropsical collections.

And, lastly, astringent caustic applications, which, in fungous swellings, are commonly recommended, frequently here do mischief.

Hydropic swellings in the cavities of joints may sometimes too be confounded with œdematous tumors; but, by attending to the following circumstances, the one may always be readily distinguished from the other. An œdema always occupies the cells of the adipose membrane, whereas the other is always confined to the cavities of capsular ligaments. In the latter, a fluctuation is always more or less evident; whereas in the former no fluctuation ever takes place, and the swelled parts are easily pitted by pressure.

In the cure of disorders of this kind, we are desired, in their incipient states, always to attempt discussion. With this view, cold water poured upon the parts is recommended; frictions, frequently repeated; fomentations of wine, salt, vinegar, urine, and other acrid

sub-

ſubſtances; embrocations of any of the warm mineral waters, and more particularly fomentations of cicuta, which are adviſed as the moſt effectual application for every ſwelling of this nature. Hydrogogue purges, diuretics, ſudorifics, and other internal medicines of the ſame nature, are directed to be uſed at the ſame time with theſe external applications.

By a proper continuance of a courſe of this kind, many hydropic ſwellings of the joints, we are told, have been removed; and one very bad caſe is related of a ſwelling of this nature, in the joint of the foot, attended with ſevere pains, and a conſiderable collection of a fluid, which was cured by the uſe of fomentations of cicuta alone.

But when diſorders of this kind have been of long continuance, ſo as to have occaſioned any conſiderable degree of ſwellings, we are directed not to have much dependence either on internal remedies or external applications. In ſuch inſtances we are deſired, as the only effectual method, to evacuate the contained matter by a ſmall opening into the cavities of the joints. Different modes of opening ſuch collections have been adopted; the moſt frequent is by means of a lancet, or trocar, and afterwards introducing ſmall doſſils of lint, or other ſubſtances, to prevent a too ſudden co-

alefcence

alescence of the parts. This method our author long pursued; sometimes it proved successful, but much more frequently it failed, from the formation of matter, febrile affections, and other bad symptoms which often ensued. At last, accident discovered a mode of proceeding, which he has ever since followed, and always with success.

A swelled joint was opened in the usual way, and it was intended also to prevent the sides of the wound from coalescing, by the introduction of proper dossils; as without attending to that precaution, it was not supposed that a cure could be obtained. When the parts came to be examined, however, with a view to their being dressed, the dossils were found to have been improperly applied, so that the wound in the capsular ligament of the joint was healed up. In consequence of this, our author never doubted but the operation would be to do over again, but was greatly surprised to find that the result proved otherwise, a speedy and lasting cure being obtained without any farther remedy than the use of cicuta fomentations to the parts. Since that period, our author has always practised this operation, in the following manner. Supposing the disease is seated

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in the knee; as the ſwelling is commonly more prominent above the patella, and ſomewhat to one ſide than at any other part, the outer ſide of the joint is fixed upon for the opening, which he directs to be made with a ſmall lancet, between the inſertion of the tendon of the rectus muſcle of the thigh, and the external hamſtrings. After the opening is effected, all the contained matter is directed to be evacuated, either by proper preſſure, or by a gentle rotatory motion of the leg and foot. This being done, the opening is to be as exactly united as poſſible, by means of an adheſive plaſter, and a proper bandage.

On ſome occaſions, we are told, a ſecond opening has been rendered neceſſary, but this, our author ſays, occurs very ſeldom. Any ſmall quantities of fluid, which ſometimes remain in the parts, after every method has been tried for their evacuation, will in general be eaſily diſſipated by the uſe of cicuta fomentations.

Our author does not mean to ſay, that the mode propoſed will ever prove effectual, when the diſorder has proceeded to any of its more advanced ſtages. In ſuch inſtances, when the ligaments, bones, &c. become affected, very different methods of cure become neceſſary; it

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is only in the ſimple ſtate of a collected fluid that he means to recommend the practice. Having finiſhed his obſervations upon dropſical ſwellings of the joints, our author then proceeds to favour us with ſome miſcellaneous remarks on the treatment of other diſorders.

A ſimilar mode of treatment to that which is above recommended for collections about the joints, will probably be found to anſwer, we are told, in all tumors of the hydatide kind, in caſes of encyſted dropſy wherever they are ſituated, and in the empyema—Of this laſt diſorder a caſe is related, where the practice proved effectual.

The following hiſtory being very remarkable, we ſhall ſtate it fully. A woman, who for ſeveral weeks had complained of a violent pain in her right arm and ſhoulder, was, at her own earneſt deſire, let blood. The blood was taken from the ſound arm; in a very ſhort ſpace after the operation, ſhe was ſeized with anxiety, difficulty of breathing, and heat about the precordia. Theſe ſymptoms encreaſing, the patient was at laſt ſeized with a difficulty of ſwallowing, which gradually became worſe, ſo that for five days before death, ſhe was not able to ſwallow any thing.

On opening the body after death, the pericardium was found fo diftended with an ichorous kind of purulent matter, that almoft the whole cavity of the cheft was filled with it; and no other caufe for the difficult deglutition could be detected.

A very bad cafe of fiftula in ano is related, that was cured by injections of a decoction of cicuta. The difeafe had been of two years ftanding; penetrated feveral inches up the rectum; and as there was a fufpicion of the os facrum being carious, a palliative treatment was attempted; in the fpace of fix weeks from the commencement of the cicuta injections, a complete cure was obtained.

The laft remark made by our author refpects incarcerated hernia, in which the application of oats, moderately heated, to the fwelled part, is recommended as a practice frequently found effectual at Vienna. It was among the common people only, that the practice took place. Our author acknowleges, that, for a long time he placed no dependence upon their effects; at laft, by repeated evidence of their influence, he was convinced of the contrary; and a cafe of hernia is related, in which, after it had refifted the ufe of tobacco-fmoke, and every

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application common in ſuch caſes, the operation was reſolved upon; but the patient's wife inſiſting on a trial of dried oats, the requeſt was agreed to, and a cure was thereby obtained.

III.

Jacobi Koſtrzewſki; Poloni, *Nobilis Patritii* Varſovienſis *A. A. L. L. et Philoſophiæ Doctoris, Diſſertatio Medica de Gratiola. 8vo.* Vindobonæ.

WE are here favoured with a Diſſertation on the medicinal effects of hedge-hyſſop, the Gratiola of Linnæus, Bauhin, and other botanical writers.

Before proceeding to the experimental part of the treatiſe, it may not be improper to give our author's deſcription of the plant; and, with a view to avoid every riſk of miſrepreſentation, we ſhall here deliver it in his own words.

Plantæ deſcriptio.

" Ex *Radice* alba, teretiuſcula, geniculata, calami mediocris craſſetie fibris albidis deorſum tendentibus, horizontaliter repente, ſtolonibus aucta, perenni emergunt.

 Caules

" *Caules* dodrantales, aut altiores, ima parte, præſertim ſubmerſa, teretes, ſubnudi; reliqua parta ſubanguloſi, erecti, intus ſpongioſi, meditullio inanes, jam ſimplices jamque ramoſi.

" *Foliis* hi ornantur ex adverſo poſitis, glabris, ſubtrinerviis, unciam aut ſeſcunciam longes, quatuor ad quinque lineas latis; ex baſi latiore caulem amplexante & quaſi in eo decurente, unde caulis ſubanguloſus adparet, ultra medietatem integris; altera vero parte apicem verſus argute ſerratis.

" *Flores* e foliorum axillis prodeunt ſolitarii, pedunculati; quorum,

" *Calyx* monaphyllus, in quinque lacinias tubulatas profunde partitus, vix non ſemper duobus aliis foliolis linearibus patentibus, nonnunquam vero cum ipſo calyce coalitis, auctus eſt.

" *Corolla* monopetala tubo guadet calyce duplo longiore, deorſum incurvato, ſuperius fuſceſcente, parumper conplanato, inferius ſordide luteo, ſtriato; ore partito in lacinias quatuor purpuraſcentes, obtuſas, patentes; lacinia ſuprema leviter emarginata, parumper latiore magiſque erecta, unde ringens quodammodo adparet flos.

Sta-

" *Stamina* intra corollæ faucem ſubvilloſam latent duo antherifera, filamentis brevibus ſuperiori parti tubi adcreta; alia duo filamenta ad baſin corollæ egrediuntur libera, tenuia, tubi longitudine; anthera deficiente, cujus loco minutiuſculum apice capitulum gerunt.

" *Germen* e fundo calycis perſiſtentis exſurgit conicum, in ſtilum ſimplicem elongatum, ſtigmate uncinato terminatum; quod in capſulam abit ex ovato acuminatam, dilute rufeſcentem bilocularem, bivalem, ſeminibus exiguis rufis fœtam.

" Tota planta ſapore inſigniter amaro prædita eſt. Creſcit paſſim in rivulis aliiſque locis inundatis aut uliginoſis.

" Floret menſe Julio, et Auguſto."

The ſecond chapter of the Diſſertation, contains the different appellations by which the plant, now under conſideration, has been diſtinguiſhed; and likewiſe the opinions of various authors with reſpect to its medicinal qualities.

In the third chapter are related three caſes, which place in a ſtriking point of view the good effects of gratiola in maniacal diſorders; and in the laſt chapter we are favoured with an account of its effects in a variety of other complaints.

A ſtout robuſt man, aged 32 years, in the year 1772, was ſeized with a kind of melancholy, which very ſoon terminated in real mania; when he became ſo furious as frequently to break the chains with which it was found neceſſary to bind him down to his bed. After repeated blood-lettings, and various other remedies had been tried in vain, the patient was brought to the Spaniſh hoſpital at Vienna, in the month of October, 1774.

He was now as bad as ever; his appetite, however, was good, his pulſe full, and the ſtate of his belly and urine natural. Here alſo repeated blood-lettings were preſcribed, with aperients, and large quantities of camphor; as alſo bliſters, both to the neck and legs. But no beneficial effects being obſerved from theſe remedies, the powder of gratiola was at laſt had recourſe to.

Half a drachm of the powder was exhibited at eight o'clock in the morning, and four pounds of decoction of graſs was allowed each day for ordinary drink. In an hour after taking the powder, both vomiting, purging, and a copious flow of urine were produced. Ten grains of the powder were alſo given in the evening.

Next

Next morning another half drachm of the powder was prefcribed; the patient was this day conftantly delirious, and his pulfe had fuffered no material alteration. The fame effects of vomiting, purging, and a copious flow of urine, were again the confequence of the exhibition of the powder. The evening dofe was now omitted.

The fame quantity of the powder was exhibited on the third day, and with the fame effects. On the fourth day, the patient appeared more ferene, his appetite was good, his fleep quiet, and no medicine was this day given, but the decoction of grafs.

On the fifth day he was much more furious than in the preceding day: half a drachm of the powder was given in the morning; and in the evening four grains of pills, of the Cynogloffus, were prefcribed.

On the 6th, 7th, and 8th days, the patient ftill continued delirious, and the medicines on thefe days were altogether omitted: on the 9th, 10th, and 11th days, he was fomewhat more quiet, and the medicine was again prefcribed, and with the fame fenfible effects as before.

On the 12th day from the commencement of the remedy, the patient was in every re-

ſpect much better; he anſwered queſtions diſtinctly, and did not now practiſe a variety of abſurd geſtures, he had formerly done. The decoction of graſs was continued, but the gratiola was omitted. On the 13th day he was ſo well as to write a well-connected letter. On the 15th day he was ſtill better, reaſoned ſenſibly upon every ſubject; his pulſe, tongue, and ſtate of reſt, were now all natural. A ſcruple of the powder was this day exhibited, and with the ſame effects as before, of vomiting, purging, and a copious flow of urine.

From this period, to the time of his diſmiſſion from the hoſpital, which happened about ſeven weeks from the day of his admiſſion, he continued in perfect health, and did not ſhew the leaſt appearance of mania.

In the treatment of the other two caſes of mania, cured by the uſe of gratiola, the remedy was exhibited in nearly the ſame doſes, and in the ſame manner as related in the preceding caſe, and it uniformly produced the ſame effects of vomiting, purging, and a copious flow of urine.

We ſhall now give the particulars of a few of the other caſes related by our author, wherein the effects of the remedy under conſideration

deration appeared remarkable. In theſe caſes the powder was prepared as follows, and exhibited according to the following directions.

℞ Extract. Gratiol. ʒj.
Sacch. Alb. Lap. Cancror. āā ʒijß.
Semen Fænic. ʒj. M. f. pulvis tenuiſſimus, de quo ſumantur ab initio ter de die grana decem augendo ſenſſim doſim, donec diei ſpatio drachma integra abſumatur.

The firſt of theſe hiſtories contains the caſe of a girl, who laboured under an obſtinate ozena, from a venereal taint. Having, for the ſpace of ſix months, made frequent trials of all the uſual antivenereal remedies, without any advantage, recourſe was then had to the pulvis gratiolæ. The medicine being continued for the ſpace of two months, or little more, a complete cure was thereby obtained.

A young man, aged 21, was affected with obſtinate ulcers in the fauces, carioſities in the bones of the noſe and palate, and tophi; and exoſtoſes of the bones of the extremities. For the ſpace of two years, every antivenereal remedy in common uſe had been had recourſe to, but with no beneficial effect whatever, and at this time the pulvis gratiolæ was preſcribed.

The uſual ſymptoms of nauſea, a copious flow of urine, and frequent ſtools, were the only

only effects at firſt obſerved from the medicine. On the 36th day from the commencement of the remedy, the ulcers on the fauces began to put on a better appearance, and in a ſhort time thereafter were perfectly cured.—The bones of the noſe and palate exfoliated, the tophi and exoſtoſes were by degrees diſcuſſed, and the patient was diſmiſſed entirely cured on the fortieth week from his admiſſion to the hoſpital.

A man aged 92 years, after having for a great length of time made uſe of various remedies for ulcers in his forehead and arm, attended with carious affections of the bones underneath, but without any advantage from them, was at laſt put upon a courſe of pulvis gratiolæ.—Nauſea, a copious flow of urine, frequent ſtools, and violent head-achs, were the firſt evident effects of the medicine; and in the courſe of a few weeks, a cure of the different ſymptoms was obtained.

A man, aged 34 years, was adviſed to have recourſe to the ſame remedy for a venereal, cancerous-like ulcer on the penis, conjoined with a phymoſis; the inguinal glands were alſo ſwelled and indurated.

The

The ufual confequences were firft obferved from the medicine; and to thefe a copious falivation fupervened, about a month from the commencement of the remedy; and in the fpace of another month from that period, a complete cure was obtained.

The powder of gratiola was prefcribed for a young man labouring under a fwelled tefticle, from a venereal infection. The medicine produced the ufual effects of vomiting, purging, an increafed fecretion of urine, and it alfo acted as a powerful fudorific. In little more than a month the man was difmiffed cured.

A girl, aged 24 years, was admitted for a fluor albus, conjoined with buboes, from a venereal taint; the pulvis gratiolæ was here alfo prefcribed.

On the 15th day from the commencement of the remedy, the fluor albus ftill continued violent, but the buboes were fenfibly diminifhed; and in five weeks from the time of her admiffion, both the buboes, and difcharge from the vagina, were entirely removed.

From the events of the cafes above related, as well as from a variety of others in which this medicine proved equally efficacious, the follow-

following conclusions, our author observes, may be drawn with respect to it.

1st. The gratiola may be given with safety, both to male and female patients.

2d. In all disorders proceeding from a superabundance of serum in the fluids, it appears to be a most effectual remedy.

3d. In consequence of this, it is had recourse to, with very great advantage, in melancholia and mania, arising from that state of the system.

4th. As it powerfully promotes purging, vomiting, sweat, and urine, it is hence much superior to any of the usual evacuating remedies, most of which prove only active in inducing one of these discharges at once.

5th. The most obstinate cases of gonorrhœa, fluor albus, and venereal ulcers, are cured by the powder.—In some instances it has induced salivation; but whether or not it can always be made to produce that effect, is not as yet altogether certain.

6th. The powder of gratiola, prepared from the extract, and exhibited with sugar, does not induce vomiting; and on the contrary, the powder of the root always promotes that evacuation.

IV. Joh.

IV.

Joh. Francifci Ignat. Probft *Differtatio inaugur. de Sale Volatili Cantharidum.* 8*vo.* Norimbergæ.

AFTER giving a defcription of the infects termed cantharides, the following chemical analyfis of them is related by our author.

A pound of cantharides being put into a glafs retort, properly fitted with a receiver, the retort was then placed in a fand heat; the fire was at firft very moderate, but was gradually increafed to a high degree of heat.

Three ounces and a half of an urinous kind of fpirit, with a very difagreeable flavour, were firft brought over. Six drams of a fœtid, brown, vifcid oil, and two ounces of beautiful white cryftals adhered to the receiver. The infects remaining in the retort ftill retained their original figure, although converted into a coal.—This coal, however, was not entirely deprived of its oil, as appeared from its being very inflammable, but on being lixiviated with water it did not appear to contain any fixed falt.

The fpirit obtained by this procefs feemed evidently of a faline nature; blue vegetable infu-

infusions were changed by it to a green colour. It effervesced with a solution of mercury in the nitrous acid, and yielded by precipitation a white powder.

As an opinion has very generally prevailed among practitioners, that the activity of cantharides depends upon the quality of the salt contained in them, several experiments were tried with a view to ascertain the fact.

A scruple of this salt being mixed with a drachm of melilot, was applied to the back of the hand, after the part had been rubbed with a woollen cloth wet with vinegar. As neither pain, vesication, nor even the least degree of inflammation was produced, after the plaster had been applied twenty-four hours, the quantity of salt was doubled, and a little of the oil and spirit of cantharides being added to the composition, the application was again renewed, but no effects whatever were observed from it.

With a view to ascertain the effects of the medicine, when exhibited internally, our author thought it prudent to proceed with more caution. On the first day of the experiment he took one grain; on the second, two

grains;

grains; on the third, four grains; on the fourth, ſix grains; on the fifth, eight grains; on the ſixth, ten grains; on the ſeventh, twelve grains: each doſe being diſſolved in a ſpoonful of water. And as no effect was produced by any of them upon the kidneys, he went on, increaſing the doſe four grains daily, till at laſt he came to take two ſcruples at once; and as even then no evident effects reſulted from the medicine, he concludes, that it is not from the ſalt contained in cantharides, that they either bliſter when applied externally, or affect the kidneys when internally exhibited.

As our author did not propoſe, in this diſſertation, to carry his enquiry farther than to determine the effects of the ſalt of cantharides, he does not pretend to ſay in what parts of theſe inſects their activity reſides.

V.

Mathaei Francisci Alix. *Medicinæ et Chirurgiæ Doctoris, Acad. Elect. Scient. Utilium Memb.* &c. *Observata Chirurgica Fasciculus I.* 8vo. Altenburg.

IN the volume now before us, we are favoured with a variety of interesting cases and observations, which appear to have been noted down by our author as they occurred to him in the course of his practice. Of these we shall here give an account of some of the most remarkable.

De Tumore in Regione Umbilicali.

A woman, who, for some time, had perceived a tumor on the umbilical region, applied to a person for advice, who had long been famous for the efficacy of a plaster in cases of hernia. As the case, now mentioned, was suspected to be of that nature, the plaster was applied, with a very tight bandage over it.

The tumor, which, till then, had not given much uneasiness, became painful and inflamed; and

and an abfcefs was foon produced, which terminated in an ulcer, by which the excrements from the inteftines were difcharged.

As the patient became daily worfe, the affiftance of our author was defired. On examining the parts, he found the opening in the gut was in that portion which forms the fmall inteftines; at leaft he fufpected fo, from the food being now difcharged at the opening, and with very little change being produced on it from the time of its being taken in at the mouth. With the excrements difcharged by the anus, there were found mixed quantities of putrefied worms.

As the woman, before the appearance of the tumour, had been liable to frequent pains in the abdomen, and had at different times both vomited and paffed by ftool worms of a very great length; our author immediately fufpected thefe animals to have been the original caufe of the diforder; inftances of which he remarks are mentioned both by Tiffot in his Avis au Peuple, and in the Phyfical and Literary Effays of Edinburgh.

On this fuppofition, the ulcer was dreffed with fimple digeftives, and the opening was preferved with a view to encourage a difcharge

 of

of worms. At the ſame time, a courſe of anthelmintic medicines was preſcribed.

In the ſpace of ten days, or ſo, from the commencement of this treatment, a very great number of worms were diſcharged by the opening, ſome of them almoſt a yard in length. After this, the ſore was allowed to heal; and a firm cicatrix being produced, a complete cure was obtained. With a view to prevent a farther generation of worms, a courſe of limatura Martis was preſcribed, with gentle purgatives at proper intervals.

De Ulceribus benignis intempeſtive Sanatis.

The following is given as a remarkable inſtance of the bad effects of healing old ulcers, without the previous introduction of adequate drains.

A woman, aged 55, whoſe menſes had left her five years before, conſulted our author for an ulcer on each leg, which had been of a twelve-month's duration.

As the ſores did not give much uneaſineſs, and as the woman enjoyed exceeding good health, ſhe was adviſed to allow them to remain open, eſpecially, as from their continuance the conſtitution had become habituated

to

to the difcharge. If, however, fhe was refolved on having them dried up, two iffues were recommended, with a view of difcharging the fame quantity of matter. The patient went away determined to follow the advice fhe had received. Unluckily, however, in a fhort time thereafter fhe happened to meet with an itinerant practitioner, who promifed her a certain cure, without any rifk to her health, and without the trouble of fubftituting any drain whatever.

By the ufe of ftrong aftringent applications, a cure of the fores was very foon obtained, and the patient continued to enjoy her ufual good health for the fpace of fourteen days. But about that period fhe began to complain of want of appetite, and a general laffitude; and, in eight days thereafter, fhe was feized with a violent hard cough, great heat upon her fkin, a tenfenefs of the abdomen, and great difficulty of breathing.

Thefe complaints becoming alarming, the affiftance of our author was again called for. All the remedies ufual in fuch cafes were had recourfe to, but with no advantage whatever. The difficulty of breathing, in the mean time,

increaſing to ſuch a degree, as to endanger ſuffocation.

It now occurred to our author, that nothing would probably prove ſo effectual for the removal of theſe complaints as the renewal of the drains to which the conſtitution had formerly been accuſtomed. And with a view to obtain as quick a diſcharge in that way as poſſible, ſeveral ſcarifications were made upon the ſeats of the former ſores, all of ſuch depths as to admit of the introduction of ſmall pieces of *Radix Iridis Florentinæ*. The wounds being dreſſed with baſilicon, and covered with a plaſter, were left in that ſtate for the ſpace of three days without being looked at.

At the firſt dreſſing, the ointment and plaſter were found wet with a kind of ſanies; by degrees the diſcharge encreaſed, and in proportion as the matter encreaſed in quantity, the patient got gradually better; ſo that in the ſpace of fourteen days, ſhe was almoſt entirely well. Her appetite returned, ſhe could now go to ſleep with eaſe, and the difficulty of breathing very ſoon diſappeared.

Hiſtoria

Hiſtoria valde curioſa Brachii Sphacelo corrupti.

A man, aged 72, was ſeized with a large inflammatory tumour on the back of his left hand, attended with continued violent pains, thirſt, a ſmart fever, and delirium.

A plaſter, and ſome other improper applications were, for ſome time, made uſe of, till a blackneſs had been obſerved over all the hand and part of the fore arm; the aſſiſtance of our author was then deſired.

His firſt viſit was on the 13th of July, 1772: the patient was at that time very low, his pulſe ſmall; a gangrene occupied the fingers, hand, and one half of the fore-arm. The parts were as hard as a piece of wood, and he complained of little or no pain.

Amputation of the limb was recommended by our author, as the only probable means of ſaving the patient's life, as it did not appear to be a caſe that could admit of any attempt for ſaving the limb, as recommended in caſes of gangrene by Mr. Bilguer. But the operation was not agreed to, and our author not being in that part of the country for a good many months, did not again ſee the patient till

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the 18th of December following. At this time the patient did not complain of any pain, had no want of appetite, and his pulſe was better. The gangrene had by this time ſpread up to the joint of the elbow.

As it was not ſuppoſed the man could live long, no farther enquiries were made about him, till a full year thereafter, viz. on the 19th of December, 1773, when our author called at his houſe, to learn the event of the caſe. The patient was ſtill as firm and ſtout as ever, although at this time he laboured under a tertian intermittent; he had loſt one of his eyes, the ſphacelus had ſpread over the whole arm up to the ſhoulder-joint, the parts ſtill continued hard, were equally black as a bit of ſmoked meat, but did not emit any cadaverous ſmell. At laſt, towards the end of that month the arm fell off, without the leaſt hæmorrhage enſuing, the remaining parts dried without any diſcharge whatever, and the old man, at the time of this publication, continued to enjoy very good health.

De Tendine Achillis diſciſo, artificioſa deligatione feliciter ſanato.

A young healthy man, having unluckily got the tendo Achillis of one of his legs divided by

by a cut, had recourfe for relief to an ignorant practitioner, who, not regarding the wounded tendon, ftuffed the cavity, occafioned by the wound, full of lint. This occafioning a great addition of pain, the affiftance of our author was then defired. It was now two days from the time that the wound had been inflicted, which made it doubtful whether a re-union of the divided tendon could be expected or not. This, however, being attempted, a complete cure, we are told, was in due time accomplifhed.

The principal part of the cure confifted in keeping the divided parts as near together as poffible, by the leg being kept bent, and the foot drawn backwards, and fecured in that pofition, by means of proper ligatures, carried between it and a circular bandage placed upon the thigh.

VI.

Caroli de Mertens, *M. D. Obſervationes Medicæ de Febribus putridis, de Peſte, nonnulliſque aliis Morbis.* 12mo. Vindobonæ.

OUR author, who for ſeveral years practiſed as a phyſician in Moſcow, in the firſt part of this treatiſe gives a very diſtinct and particular account of the riſe, progreſs, and method of treatment of a putrid catarrhal fever, which prevailed in that city in the years 1768, 1769, and 1770.

In the ſecond part of the publication, we are favoured with an account of the plague, which raged with ſuch violence at Moſcow, in the year 1771, as to carry off 70,000 of the inhabitants in the ſpace of a very few months. In the month of September of that year, upwards of 22,000 died of it. There were even different inſtances of 1200 being carried off by it in the ſpace of twenty-four hours.

The war which commenced between the Ruſſians and Turks in the year 1769, and the intercourſe which that event occaſioned between the two nations, was the means, we are told,

told, of the plague being, at this time, introduced into Ruſſia. For ſome time, the practitioners of Moſcow were at a loſs to diſcover how the contagion had been brought to that city, till at laſt it was diſcovered to have come from the army with two ſoldiers, who died in the military hoſpital of Moſcow. Their bodies being given to an anatomiſt, he thereby received the infection of which he died. From him, and from the hoſpital where the ſoldiers had lodged, the diſeaſe very quickly ſpread over the city. The diſorder ſhewed itſelf by different ſymptoms, according to the conſtitutions attacked by it, and according to the ſtate of the weather at the time; but in general it began with head-ach, giddineſs, horripilatio, proſtration of ſtrength, a ſlight degree of fever, nauſea, vomiting, redneſs of the eyes, a dejected countenance, and a white foul tongue. A tickling attended with ſlight pains were perceived in theſe places where the buboes and carbuncles afterwards broke out. Many died on the firſt or ſecond day of the attack, before any of theſe tumours made their appearance. In ſuch inſtances, however, an eruption commonly appeared a few hours before

before death, of petechiæ and red ſpots, but in a few even theſe were wanting.

The buboes and carbuncles commonly appeared on the ſecond or third day; ſeldom on the fourth. In ſome few inſtances, the diſeaſe on its firſt attack, put on an inflammatory form, as appeared from the burning heat which took place, together with the intenſe thirſt, high-coloured urine, redneſs of the cheeks, and a high degree of phrenitis. But much more frequently the fever from the beginning appeared evidently to be of the nervous kind, all the ſymptoms which occured being ſuch as commonly attend fevers of that nature. In a few the fever put on the appearance of an intermittent.

Such as were carried off by the diſeaſe, all died before the ſixth day, inſomuch that thoſe who lived till the ſeventh, were always pronounced to be out of danger.

The buboes which occur in this diſeaſe are glandular ſwellings, generally ſomewhat painful, and more or leſs elevated. Their uſual ſeat is in the arm-pits, or groins, but they alſo happen in other parts, as in the neck, cheeks, &c.

Theſe

Theſe ſwellings are to be conſidered, we are told; as the true criſis of the plague; but in order to their proving beneficial, they muſt be perfectly ſuppurated. In many inſtances they arrived even to the ſize of walnuts, and ſuddenly again diſappeared; and in others they neither became painful nor inflamed. In theſe they afforded no relief; and in the former it was always ſuppoſed that death was nor far diſtant.

Swellings of the parotid glands frequently occured, but they never produced ſuch complete cures as the buboes.

Carbuncles, our author defines to be a gangrenous ſpot upon the ſkin, having the appearance of a burn, with red, livid, or black veſicles, bounded by an inflammatory ring, which ſoon terminates in a hard black eſchar. —The *anthrax*, he obſerves, is an affection of ſomewhat the ſame nature with the carbuncle, only the former is more prominent, penetrates deeper into the adipoſe membrane, and occaſions a higher degree of pain and inflammation.

The petechiæ which occured here were ſimilar to thoſe uſually obſerved in putrid fevers,

fevers, though ſomewhat larger. The vibices gave the appearance of a part ſeverely whipped. All theſe exanthemata were conſidered as ſymptoms of the worſt kind, as they were generally forerunners of approaching death.

With reſpect to the *pulſe* in this diſorder, our author obſerves, that nothing certain can be ſaid; for as ſoon as the contagion became ſo infectious as to be propagated by the touch, practitioners had not afterwards ſuch a near intercourſe with their patients. Some, indeed, he remarks, had the curioſity ſtill to examine the pulſe, either through the intervention of a glove, or of a piece of tobacco applied to the patient's wriſt, but the accounts thus obtained were ſo various and different, that it is not neceſſary to enumerate them.

The diſeaſe at its commencement, in the beginning of the year, did not make great progreſs; but gradually became more univerſal as the weather turned warmer. From the month of July, till the month of September, it raged with moſt violence; not above four recovering out of a hundred attacked with it during that period. But from that time forward, the contagion became gradually milder, and

and at laſt ceaſed entirely, when the cold froſty weather became fixed and ſteady.

In the treatment of the plague, the diſorder our author obſerves, may, with propriety, be divided into two ſtages, viz. the nervous, and putrid. The former comprehends merely that degree of confuſion and diſturbance given to the nervous ſyſtem on the firſt introduction of the peſtilential miaſma; and the latter, or putrid ſtage, commences at the time the miaſma begins to operate upon the blood and other fluids, in aſſimilating them to its own putrid nature.

In the commencement, or nervous ſtate of the diſorder, there have been inſtances, our author obſerves, of the miaſma being carried off by means, of ſweat. Hence, at this period of the diſeaſe gentle diaphoretics, ſuch as tepid ſubacid drinks, are recommended; camphorated emulſions, juleps of camphor and muſk were of uſe. Gentle emetics were here alſo ſerviceable, particularly of ipecacuanha. By one practitioner, a great quantity of James's powder, brought from England, was adminiſtered, but with no particular advantage.

In the ſecond ſtage of the diſeaſe, when the putrid miaſma begins to effect a diſſolution of the

the blood, the cortex Peruvianus and mineral acids are recommended as the principal remedies. But from the very quick progrefs of the diforder, from the greateft number of thofe attacked by it concealing their complaint as long as poffible, for fear of being fuddenly hurried away from their relations; and laftly, from the little intercourfe which occurs between practitioners and the infected, after the removal of the latter into places allotted for their reception, nothing very certain or fatisfactory, our author remarks, can be faid with refpect to the effects of remedies in cafes of plague.

Purgatives, we are told, prove very detrimental in this diforder, as they tend to induce fuch debilitating and obftinate diarrhœas as cannot again be ftopped.

Blood-letting has been recommended by Sydenham in the beginning of the diforder, when no eruption has appeared upon the furface. But from our author's practice in this difeafe, he would never advife it to be had recourfe to. Scarifying the carbuncles, which occur in cafes of the plague, is recommended by almoft every writer; but no good effects, we are told, were here obferved from the practice. As low fainting fits are frequent fymptoms in the plague, none

none ſhould be buried, our author remarks, till ſome other and more certain ſymptoms of death have occurred.

A diſcharge of the *vermes teretes*, both by the mouth and anus, was a frequent ſymptom in this diſorder. Women with child, attacked with the plague, all ſuffered abortion; and were commonly carried off by hæmorrhage from the uterus.

Preventing every means of intercourſe between the diſeaſed and healthy, is the only prophylactic to be depended on; and when the diſorder has once got footing in a place, allotting a certain diſtrict, as much as poſſible detached from the reſt of the town, to which every perſon is to be removed, ſo ſoon as any ſymptoms of infection have appeared, is then recommended as the moſt effectual reſource.

A very remarkable inſtance is related by our author, of the ſingular good effects that may be obtained by proper care and attention, in preventing any kind of intercourſe between the diſeaſed and healthy, in caſes of plague, which at the ſame time gives great reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the miaſma of this diſorder is not readily communicated by the air, and that the infec-

tion might in general be put a ſtop to by a ſtrict and regular attention to this circumſtance. Our author having been appointed phyſician to one of the largeſt hoſpitals in the city of Moſcow, was anxious to have every thing done for preventing the plague getting acceſs to the people contained in it; and although the building was ſituated in the very middle of the city, yet by ſhutting up every avenue that led to it, but one, where a ſtrict guard was kept for preventing acceſs to every ſuſpected article, the place was kept perfectly free from the infection, even when the diſeaſe was raging with the greateſt violence in every other quarter of the city. Cloaths, and every utenſil uſed by infected perſons, were ordered to be burned; and, for purifying the houſes where they had lived, fumes of vinegar, and the burning gunpowder in them was recommended. A powder, termed at Moſcow the antipeſtilential powder, was much in vogue; and very deſervedly, we are told, for deſtroying the ſeeds of the infection. Its baſis was ſulphur, conjoined with nitre, juniper berries, and certain reſins. With this every ſuſpected place was fumigated, and evidently with very beneficial effects.

In

In the third and laſt part of this publication, among other practical caſes, we are favoured with four, upon the effects of bliſters in ſpitting of blood. As in all of them the application proved effectual, we ſhall only here relate the following.

In the beginning of the year 1773, our author was called to a perſon ſeemingly far gone in a caſe of hæmoptoe, who, about two years before, he had cured of the ſame complaint. At this time, however, the patient was much worſe than he had been before; having the preceding night ſpit up more than a pound and a half of red florid blood. As the patient had formerly been liable to the piles, leeches were at different times applied near to the anus; he was five times let blood at the arm, to the extent of a pound each time; a doſe of tincture of roſes was given every half hour; he was kept upon the loweſt regimen; and a variety of cold applications, which, in his former complaint, had given relief, were now alſo had recourſe to, but with no advantage whatever. The patient being now very much reduced, and, to appearance, in imminent danger, as the diſcharge of blood ſtill continued obſtinate, a large bliſter was applied between the

 ſhoulders.

ſhoulders. As ſoon as the bliſter began to irritate, the cough, which before had been troubleſome, became leſs frequent, and the diſcharge of blood ceaſed entirely. A milk diet, and the remedies above mentioned, being continued, the patient gradually recovered his ſtrength, and in a ſhort time was reſtored to perfect health.

VII.

The Hiſtory of Edinburgh, by Hugo Arnot, *Eſq. Advocate.* 4*to.* Edinburgh.

OUR readers will not imagine that it is by any means our intention to preſent them with a complete analyſis of the work now before us. A very ſmall part only of this publication can be conſidered as having any connexion with medicine, or medical philoſophy. Yet it contains ſeveral particulars, an account of which will not, we preſume, be unacceptable.

Among other ſubjects of this nature, the account which is given of the charitable eſtabliſhments formerly exiſting at Edinburgh, for perſons afflicted with the leproſy, may juſtly be

be mentioned. This loathſome diſeaſe, which is well known to have been frequent among the Jews, and the ſeverity of which is ſo pathetically deſcribed in the ſacred writings, ſeems alſo to have been very common among our anceſtors, and among them it ſeems equally to have viſited the cottage and the palace. King Robert Bruce, who was the founder of a charitable inſtitution for the benefit of thoſe afflicted with leproſy, is ſaid to have himſelf laboured under this diſtemper.

With the view of alleviating the miſeries of thoſe ſubjected to this dreadful diſtemper, the hoſpital of Greenſide was founded at Edinburgh, A. D. 1591, by John Robertſon, merchant in that city. The frequency of the leproſy at that period is evinced by the conditions which were neceſſary for admiſſion. This charitable eſtabliſhment was totally confined to thoſe who were either born in Edinburgh, or who had reſided there for the ſpace of ſeven years; and the loathſome and infectious nature of the diſeaſe is demonſtrated by the ſeverity of the regulations to which perſons admitted into the hoſpital were ſubjected.

They were prohibted, under pain of death, from going without the walls of the hoſpital after

ſun-ſet, and that this might not be deemed an empty menace, a gallows was erected near the building for the immediate execution of offenders. Happily, however, for the preſent age, neither ſuch regulations, nor ſuch an eſtabliſhment are any longer neceſſary.

But leproſy is not the only diſeaſe from which the preſent period ſeems to be delivered. In ancient times the plague frequently broke out in Edinburgh, raging with various degrees of fury; but, according to our author, this moſt ſevere ſcourge that ever viſited the human race, has not made its appearance in the city of Edinburgh ſince the year 1645.

But while the city of Edinburgh has been delivered from the plague and leproſy, it has, our author obſerves, been viſited by two other diſtempers, which have, at different times, made great havoc among its citizens, as well as the other inhabitants of modern Europe; theſe are the ſmall-pox and the venereal diſeaſe. He is, however, inclined to view theſe alſo as having now abated of their original ſeverity. He conſiders the practice of inoculation as diſarming the former of all its terrors; and he heſitates not to pronounce, that thoſe parents are to be conſidered as acceſſary to the

death

death of their children who oppose this practice. With respect to the venereal disease, he gives a copy of an order of the privy-council, banishing from the city of Edinburgh to the island of Inch-Keith, all who were either affected with the disease, or took upon them to cure it. The penalty of contravention, either by the deceased, or the physician, was burning on the cheek; a certain evidence that this complaint also was more terrible to our ancestors than it is to their posterity.

For the account which our author gives of the different branches of medical education taught at Edinburgh, both in the university, and by private teachers, we must refer our readers to the work itself. Nor will the limits of this publication admit of our introducing the account, which he has given of the different conditions, which are requisite before any one can stand candidate for the degree of doctor of medicine in the university of Edinburgh, and of the examinations which candidates must undergo before they can obtain that honour.

Of these, however, a very particular detail is given in this work, while at the same time the account may be depended upon; at

leaſt as an accurate view of the preſent laws reſpecting graduation at Edinburgh.

Beſides the very accurate account which is given of the extent, ſituation, and other circumſtances reſpecting the Royal Botanical Garden, which is now richly ſtocked with exotic plants of all kinds, a liſt is given of the moſt curious, which the intelligent botaniſt, who viſits the garden, will chiefly be anxious to ſee. Of theſe we may mention examples: Alſtroemeria Colinſonia Didyma, unknown to Linnæus; Illicium Aniſatum, a moſt beautiful aromatic ever-green from Florida; Muſa Sapientum, or the Banana, which has produced ripe fruit. The Tea-tree, which has been in full flower; the Caira from the Eaſt-Indies; a ſpecies of the Mimoſa, unknown to Linnæus, and to the European gardens. The extract from the wood of this plant is the Terra Japonica of the ſhops, which, however, would be more properly named, the Extractum Japonicum, or Succus Japonicus. An account of the method of preparing this ſubſtance was given in a former number of this work, as communicated to the medical profeſſors at Edinburgh, by Mr. Kerr, ſurgeon at Dacca; and a ſtill more full and par-

ticular account of it from the ſame gentleman has ſince been publiſhed in the London Medical Obſervations. Laſtly, in the Botanical Garden at Edinburgh, is to be found that extraordinary vegetable the moving plant, the ſeeds of which were alſo ſent home by Mr. Kerr; and our author has here favoured us with the following account of it, as tranſmitted from India, by the induſtrious gentleman, to whom the Botanical Garden is indebted for the plant itſelf.

This vegetable, according to Mr. Kerr's account, has in the Eaſt Indies the name of Burrum Chundali. It grows about four feet high, and in autumn produces bunches of yellow flowers reſembling the French honeyſuckle; the root is annual or biennial; like many of the pea-tribe it is trifolious; the lateral leaves are ſmaller than thoſe at the end, and all day long they are in conſtant motion, without any external impulſe. They move up, or down, and circularly. This laſt motion is performed by the twiſting of the footſtalks; while one leaf is riſing, its aſſociate is generally deſcending. The motion downwards is quicker and more irregular than the motion upwards, which is ſteady and uniform.

Theſe

Theſe motions are obſervable for the ſpace of twenty-four hours, in the leaves of a branch which is lopped off from the ſhrub, if it be kept in water. If from any obſtacle the motion be retarded, upon the removal of that obſtacle the motion is again reſumed with a greater degree of velocity.

Beſides theſe different plants, which, although they are to be conſidered as very rare, were not unknown to the learned in botany, the garden at Edinburgh is alſo ſtored with a great number of Abyſſinian plants, the ſeeds of which were given to the profeſſor by that juſtly celebrated traveller Mr. Bruce of Kinnaird. Among theſe is the plant by which Mr. Bruce himſelf was cured of the dyſentery; an article which may, perhaps, hereafter furniſh a valuable addition to the materia medica.

Beſides theſe different obſervations, many other particulars, not unconnected with our ſubject, might be extracted from the work before us. For while the author has not conducted his undertaking on the narrow ſcale of giving merely the hiſtory of a provincial town, but has given a copious account of national affairs, of the manners of the Scots, and of the

the prices of provifions in the country at different periods, for the fpace of eight hundred years; he has alfo introduced many important obfervations on the ftate of population and of health in the city of Edinburgh. But for his remarks on thefe fubjects, as well as for his account of the charitable eftablifhments, intended for the treatment of difeafe, the Royal Infirmary and Public Difpenfary; of the fuccefs attending the practice of medicine at thefe charities; and of the affociations of learned men, for the improvement of medicine, and medical philofophy, we muft refer our reader to the work itfelf; as any proper view of them could not be comprehended within thofe bounds, which we muft neceffarily prefcribe to ourfelves in this publication.

VIII. *A Prac-*

VIII.

A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of the Teeth, intended as a Supplement to the Natural History of those Parts. By John Hunter, *Surgeon Extraordinary to the King, and F. R. S.* 4to. London.

As the Natural History of the Teeth, alluded to in the title-page of this work, was published a good many years ago, by the ingenious author of the treatise before us; and as that publication has been attentively read by almost every practitioner, we do not think it necessary to give any account of it; nor could we, indeed, with any propriety, attempt it; as that work appeared before the publication of these Commentaries was begun.

We shall therefore confine our present analysis to the treatise now offered to the public: but we think proper to inform our readers, that many of the practical remarks contained in it, cannot be thoroughly understood by those who have not had an opportunity of perusing the Natural History of the Teeth; as numerous

ous references neceſſarily occur to the general doctrines inculcated in that work.

As new ideas and opinions are thrown out by Mr. Hunter, in almoſt every ſection of the book, and as the nature of our undertaking prevents us from giving ſuch a full account of different works as on ſome occaſions we could wiſh, we ſhall, in the firſt place, enumerate the General Contents of the whole, and ſhall then preſent our readers with ſome of our author's obſervations upon the different ſubjects treated of.

Chap. I. Of the Diſeaſes of the Teeth, and the Conſequences of them.

Sect. I. Of the Decay of the Teeth ariſing from Rottenneſs.

Of the Symptoms of Inflammation, and of ſtopping of the Teeth.

Sect. II. Of the Decay of the Teeth by Denudation.

Sect. III. Of Swelling of the Fang.

Sect. IV. Of Gum Boils.

Sect. V. Of Excreſcences from the Gum.

Sect. VI. Of deeply ſeated Abſceſſes in the Jaws.

Sect. VII. Of Abſceſſes of the Antrum Maxillare.

Chap.

Chap. II. Of the Difeafes of the Alveolar Proceffes, and the Confequences of them.

Sect. I. Of the Scurvy in the Gums, vulgarly fo called.

Sect. II. Of Callous Thickenings of the Gums.

Chap. IV. Of the nervous Pains in the Jaws.

Chap. V. Of the Extraneous Matter upon the Teeth.

Chap. VI. Of the Irregularity of the Teeth.

Chap. VII. Of Irregularities between the Teeth and Jaw, of fupernumerary Teeth.

Chap. VIII. Of the Under Jaw.

Chap. IX. Of drawing the Teeth.

Of tranfplanting Teeth.

Of the State of the Gums and Sockets.

Of the Age of the Perfon who is to have the Scion Tooth.

Of the Scion Tooth.

Of replacing a found Tooth when drawn by miftake.

Of tranfplanting a dead Tooth.

Of the immediate Faftening of a tranfplanted Tooth.

Chap. X. Of Dentition.
Of the Cure.
Of Cutting the Gums.
Cases.

The most common disease our author remarks to which the teeth are exposed, is such a decay as much resembles mortification; but there is also, he says, something more; for the simple death of the part would produce but little effect, as we find that teeth are not subject to putrefaction after death; and therefore he is led to suspect that during life, there is some operation going on, which produces a *change* in the diseased part.

Mortification, he observes, is common to every part of the body, but in most other parts, this tendency is owing, in a great measure, to the constitution, which being corrected, that disposition ceases; but here the disease is local, and, as such, it would appear we have no power of resisting it.

Nature, Mr. Hunter observes, seems, in some measure to have considered the teeth as aliens, only giving them nourishment while sound and fit for service, but not allowing them when diseased the common benefits of that society in which they are placed. They can-

cannot exfoliate, as no operations go on in them except growth; therefore, if any part be dead, the living has not the power of throwing it off and forming an external ſurface capable of ſupporting itſelf like the other parts of the body. Indeed if they had ſuch a power, no good purpoſe he thinks could ariſe from it; for a piece of tooth, ſimply dead is almoſt as uſeful, as if the whole was living, as may be ſeen from daily obſervation.

When part of a tooth has become carious, without occaſioning very great pain, it has been a common practice to file away the diſeaſed portion, with a view to preſerve the remaining ſound parts; Mr. Hunter would rather in ſuch caſes adviſe the tooth to be pulled out, and on being boiled ſo as to deſtroy any life that may have remained in it, to be reſtored to the ſocket. This, he obſerves, prevents any farther decay of the tooth, which, being now dead, cannot be acted upon by any diſeaſe, and can only ſuffer chemically or mechanically. When this practice ſucceeds it anſwers the ſame end as burning the nerve, but with much greater certainty.

When ſpeaking of ſtopping or ſtuffing of the teeth, it frequently happens, Mr. Hunter remarks,

remarks, that the gold, or tin-foil, made uſe of, cannot be got to remain in the cavity of the ſpoiled tooth, from the ſize and figure of the external opening; but this, he obſerves, may frequently be obviated, by drilling a ſmall hole through the remaining part of the tooth, and after the cavity has been well ſtuffed, a ſmall peg may be put into the hole, ſo as to keep in the lead or gold.

The ſwelling of the fang is a diſeaſe, which, in any other bone, would be called ſpina ventoſa; it gives conſiderable pain, and nothing can be ſeen externally. The only cure as yet known is extraction of the tooth.

In gum boils, when the abſceſs has opened through the gum, the beſt method, we are told, to prevent future gatherings, is to prevent the abſceſs from cloſing up. And the moſt effectual method for obtaining this end, is by extending the opening, and keeping it enlarged till the whole internal ſurface of the abſceſs is ſkinned over, or till the opening in the gum loſes the diſpoſition to heal up. With a view more effectually to deſtroy this diſpoſition in the ſore, aſtringent, cauſtic applications are recommended. Such very nice treatment is not neceſſary when a gum boil is

 formed

formed on a molaris, or back-tooth, as when it happens to the fore-tooth.

From bad teeth there are alfo fometimes excrefcences arifing at once out of the gum, near, or in contact with, the difeafed tooth; thefe have often fo much of a cancerous appearance, as to deter furgeons from meddling with them. But our author obferves, that when they arife at once from the gum, and appear to be the only difeafed part, they have no malignant difpofition.

In collections of matter in the antrum maxillare, there are three methods by which the matter may be difcharged, viz. by perforating the partition between the antrum and the nofe, by drawing the firft or fecond grinder of the difeafed fide, and perforating the partition between the root of the alveolar procefs and the antrum; and, laftly, if the fore part of the bone has been deftroyed, an opening may be made on the infide of the lip, where the abfcefs moft probably will be felt. Our author prefers the opening made by the roots of the teeth.

In nervous pains of the jaws, that is, in cafes of tooth-ach, where no external affection of the teeth can be detected, Peruvian bark, our author obferves, is a common remedy; but he has feen

cafes, he tells us, of fome years ftanding, where hemlock has fucceeded when bark had no effect; fea-bathing too is much recommended.

When fpeaking of irregularity of the teeth, our author obferves, that as that part of each jaw which holds the ten fore-teeth, is exactly of the fame fize when it contains thofe of the firft fet, as when it contains thofe of the fecond; and as the laft occupy a much larger fpace than the firft, in fuch cafes the fecond fet are obliged to ftand very irregularly. This too happens much oftner in the upper jaw than the lower, becaufe the difference of the fize of the two fets is much greater, he remarks, in that jaw.

This irregularity, we are told, is obferved almoft folely in the incifores and cufpidati, for they are the only teeth which are larger than their predeceffors.

The beft time for removing thefe irregular teeth, our author obferves, is in youth, while the jaws have an adapting difpofition; for after a certain time they do not fo readily fuit themfelves to the irregularity of the teeth. After an irregular tooth has been extracted,

 the

the next object is to alter the ſituation of the remaining ones, for the proper poſition of which, room is then allowed.

As the operation of moving the teeth is by lateral preſſure upon their bodies, theſe bodies muſt firſt have paſſed through the gums ſufficiently for a hold to be taken. This preſſure, in general, is to be done with ligatures, or plates of ſilver. The ligature anſwers beſt when it is only required to bring two teeth, which are pretty much in the circle, cloſer together. The trouble attending this, is very trifling, as it is only that of having them tied once every week or fortnight. Where teeth growing out of the circle are to be brought into it, curved ſilver plates, of a proper conſtruction, are recommended. Theſe are generally made to act on three points, two fixed points on the ſtanding teeth, and the third on the tooth to be moved. That part of the plate which reſts on the two ſtanding teeth, muſt be of ſufficient length for that purpoſe, while the curved part is ſhort, and goes on the oppoſite ſide of the tooth to be moved. Its effects depend very much on the attention of the patient, who muſt frequently preſs hard upon it with the teeth of the oppoſite jaw, ſo

that

that this method is much more troublesome to the patient than the ligature.

It is impossible, our author observes, to give absolute directions what tooth or teeth ought to be pulled out; that must be left to the judgment of the operator. But the following general hints may be of service.

1st. If there is any one tooth very much out of the row, and all the others regular, that tooth may be removed, and the two neighbouring ones brought nearer together.

2. If there are two or more teeth of the same side very irregular, (as, for instance, the second incisor and cuspidatus) and it appears to be of no consequence, with respect to regularity, which of them is removed, we are advised to extract the farthest back of the two, viz. the cuspidatus, because, if there should be any space not filled up, where the other is brought into the row, it will not be so readily seen.

3. If the above mentioned two teeth are not in the circle, but still not far out of it, and yet there is not room for both, in such a case the extraction of the bicuspis is recommended, although it should be perfectly in

the row, becauſe the two others will then be eaſily brought into the circle; and if there is any ſpace left, it will be ſo far back as not to be at all obſervable.

When ſpeaking of tranſplanting teeth, Mr. Hunter obſerves, that as this operation is very ſimilar to the ingrafting of trees, he thought the term *ſcion* might be transferred from gardening to ſurgery, and accordingly the tooth to be tranſplanted he terms the ſcion tooth.

This tooth, he remarks, ſhould be a full grown young tooth; young, becauſe the principle of life and union is much ſtronger in ſuch than in old ones. The few teeth ſhould likewiſe be perfectly ſound, and taken from a mouth which has the appearance of that of a perſon ſound and healthy. Our author obſerves, however, that he does not think it poſſible to tranſplant an infection of any kind from the circulating juices; although we know, from experience, that it may be done by a matter ſecreted from them.

When a ſound tooth has been drawn by miſtake, or when a tooth has been beat out by violence, it is recommended to replace them. The ſooner the tooth is put into its place the better; but the attempt may be made, we are told,

told, even twenty-four hours after the accident, or as long as the ſocket will receive the tooth, which may be for ſome days. Mr. Hunter is of opinion, that when the tranſplantation of teeth is attended with ſucceſs, that a living union is formed between the teeth and ſocket, and that nouriſhment is thereby conveyed to the teeth from the parts into which they are inſerted. This opinion, he thinks, is rendered indiſputable, from the following facts. 1ſt. They ſtill continue to preſerve their colour, which is very different from that of a dead tooth; for a living tooth has a degree of tranſparency, while a dead one is of an opaque chalky white.

2. There are inſtances of their becoming painful, and otherwiſe diſeaſed, in the ſame manner as original living teeth; and, thirdly, what puts the matter beyond a doubt, is, that a living tooth, when tranſplanted into ſome living part of an animal retains its life, and the veſſels of the animal come to communicate with the tooth, as is ſhewn by the following experiments.

A ſound tooth was taken from a perſon's head, and a pretty deep wound being made with a lancet into the thick part of a cock's

comb, the fang of the tooth was preſſed into the wound, and was properly ſecured by threads paſſed through other parts of the comb. The cock was killed ſome months thereafter, and the head being injected with a very minute injection, the comb was then taken off, and put into a weak acid; by means of this the tooth being ſoftened, the comb and it were ſlit into halves in the long direction of the tooth. The veſſels of the tooth were found well injected, and it was alſo obſerved that the external ſurface of the tooth adhered every where to the comb, by veſſels ſimilar to the union of a tooth with the gum and ſocket.

Our author here thinks it right to remark, that this experiment does not generally ſucceed, as it anſwered only once with him, out of a great number of trials.

Mr. Hunter, after giving an accurate account of the various ſymptoms which accompany dentition, gives it as his opinion, that opiates and all the uſual palliatives are not to be depended on; and that cutting the gums above the approaching teeth, is the only certain remedy.

A vul-

A vulgar prejudice, he obſerves, prevails againſt this practice, from an objection, that if the gum is lanced ſo early as to admit of a reunion, the cicatriſed part will be harder than the original gum, and therefore the tooth will find more difficulty in paſſing, and give more pain.

But this, he ſays, is contrary to fact; as we find all parts which have been the ſeat, either of wounds or ſores, are always more ready to give way to preſſure, or any other diſeaſe which attacks either the part itſelf, or the conſtitution. Therefore each operation tends to make the paſſing of the teeth eaſier. Mr. Hunter has had occaſion to perform the operation above ten times, upon the ſame teeth, where diſagreeable ſymptoms had recurred ſo often, and every time with the abſolute removal of the diſorder.

SECT.

SECT. II.

Medical Observations.

I.

A remarkable Case of the morbid Effects of Lightning successfully treated. By Dr. Thomas Fowler, *Physician at Stafford. Communicated to Dr.* Duncan.

THough it must be granted, that those persons who have the misfortune to be violently affected by lightning, or the discharge of the electric matter from the clouds, are, in general, either immediately destroyed, or soon perfectly restored; yet we find many instances of their only obtaining a partial recovery, and remaining for some time afflicted with

with a variety of troublefome complaints. Various, however, as thefe complaints may appear at firft fight, I think we may with propriety refer them (with very few exceptions) to two general morbid conditions of the body, viz. either to a defect of nervous energy, or to an increafed action of the vafcular fyftem.

The firft feems to arife from the violence of the fhock of the electric matter upon the nerves, inducing in them fuch a degree of collapfe, as permanently to diminifh the ufual influence of the nervous energy, and implies that morbid condition of the nerves, which is undoubtedly the foundation of all paralytic affections.

The latter feems to arife from the nervous energy being lefs injured, whilft yet the fhock is confiderable enough to induce a ftate of excitement, or increafed action of the vafcular fyftem. Hence arifes topical inflammations, either with, or without, febrile fymptoms, according to the violence and extent of the injury.

This, I apprehend, will be allowed to be a ufeful practical diftinction, becaufe paralytic affections certainly indicate tonics; and ftimulant, and inflammatory ones, relaxants, and fedatives.

It muſt however be granted, that it is much leſs in our power to reſtore nervous energy, when morbidly diminiſhed, than to leſſen the increaſed vaſcular action of an inflamed part, or to moderate the reaction of the ſyſtem from inflammatory excitement, and therefore the effects of the latter will be much more conſpicuous and ſucceſsful, than thoſe of the former. A ſtriking example of this I beg leave to relate in the following caſe of topical inflammation.

About ſeven o'clock of the afternoon of the 11th of July, 1777, I viſited a Cow-keeper, in Walingate, in the city of York, aged 22, of a ſtrong healthy conſtitution, and found him affected with the following ſymptoms. He complained of a diſtracting pain in his forehead, with ſome pain in his ears from the ſlighteſt noiſe; he complained alſo of a conſtant pungent ſenſation in both his eyes, as if containing (to uſe his own expreſſion) burning aſhes, accompanied with violent pangs ſhooting from his forehead in the direction of the optic nerves, and which came on in paroxyſms, almoſt every minute. His face appeared red, and on forcing open his eye-lids, both eyes appeared quite bloodſhot, the tears guſhing out,

out, and totally incapable of bearing the light. His pulſe was full and ſtrong, but not quicker than natural, he was in ſome degree affected with nauſea, his extremities were cold, and his belly bound.

A little after four o'clock in the afternoon, being in perfect health, he and his ſervant girl, with their milk pails, went towards the cow paſture, and it came on a ſtorm of thunder and lightning. When they had got about a mile from home, they both, in the ſame inſtant, fell proſtrate on the ground, in a ſtate of inſenſibility. The girl ſoon came to herſelf, and ſeeing her maſter lie on the ground apparently dead, ran away for ſome aſſiſtance, in order to bring him home, which, after ſome delay, was accompliſhed about ſix o'clock; when being laid upon his bed, he began to come to himſelf, having been for an hour and a half in an apoplectic ſtate. However he had now conſiderably recovered his intellects, and a ſenſe of his complaints ſeemed to increaſe upon him in proportion as he recovered his ſenſibility.

It was obſerved he had vomited a quantity of phlegm, and other contents, upon the ground where he lay, and had alſo loſt ſome blood, appa-

apparently from his noſtrils; for it was ſaid not to be mixed with the contents from his ſtomach; and on my examining his head and face, although the latter was bloody, no external injury was viſible.

Neither he nor his ſervant girl were the leaſt conſcious of the ſtroke from the electric matter, although they both recollect the thunder and lightning being very violent, juſt when they arrived near the place where the accident happened.

About ſix o'clock a quantity of blood was taken from his arm, by my advice; but as yet it had given no check to the inflammatory ſymptoms.

I ordered, for the preſent, that a common glyſter of milk, ſugar, and ſalt, ſhould be given immediately, in order to remove coſtiveneſs; alſo that a crowd of attendants, whom curioſity had brought together, ſhould be diſmiſſed, the room darkened, and the antiphlogiſtic regimen ſtrictly obſerved.

About nine o'clock the ſame evening, he had a copious ſtool from the glyſter, by which the painful ſymptoms ſeemed rather relieved, for a ſhort time; but ſoon after they became much

worſe,

worſe, the patient declaring himſelf more diſtracted than ever. His pulſe was full and ſtrong. I ordered the following remedies. Quam primum applicentur hirudines vi. temporibus & repetatur enema domeſticum hac nocte.

July 12. The glyſter procured another ſtool; and the bleeding from the leeches was ſo conſiderable, that it did not ſtop till five o'clock this morning. About an hour after which the fillet by accident becoming looſe, his arm bled again, ſo that he loſt a very conſiderable quantity of blood, by which means the inflammatory ſymptoms of both head and eyes were much relieved during the night, and are at preſent very ſupportable. His eyes, however, are ſtill very much blood-ſhot and inflamed, his pulſe ſoft and rather quick. Capiat ſtatim Salis Glauberi uncias duas in q. ſ. aqua ferrentis ſoluti & ℞ extracti Saturni gut. xii. aq. fontanæ ℥ii. miſce pro collyrio, ſæpe in die oculi adhibendo. Continuatur regimen.

July 13. The ſalts operated very briſkly, producing more than a dozen ſtools, and with relief to his pains. Bloodſhot appearance in his eyes rather leſs, and he ſlumbered a little in the night. Pulſe much the ſame as yeſterday: continuenter regimen & collyrium.

July

July 14. Had fome little flumber in the night, and the pains in his head and eyes continue leffening: he has had no ftool fince the 12th. Pulfe more natural, appetite rather returning. Cap. ftatim Sal. Glaub. fefcunciam more folito.

July 15. Salts operated freely, and he feemed fenfibly relieved by their operation; and flumbered for the fore part of the night; but towards the morning the fhooting pains returned again into his head and eyes, and are at prefent fomewhat fevere: pulfe alfo rather hard. Statim applicentur hirudines fex, pone aures; continuentur regimen & collyrium.

July 16. There was a free difcharge of blood from the leeches for fix hours, and with fo much advantage, that he got fome natural reft this laft night, for the firft time. Pains and bloodfhot much abated. He complains of confiderable lofs of ftrength, and that the fhutting of a door haftily throws him into tremor and palpitations. Pulfe 72. regular, foft, and weak; has had no ftool fince the 14th. Cap. Salis Glauberi unciam ftatim more folito; continuentur regimen & collyrium.

July 17th. The ſalts operated well, he ſlept tolerably ſound in the night. Shooting pains in his eyes quite gone, and the pains in his head changed into a ſenſe of ſoreneſs, on motion; appetite ſenſibly better; nervous tremor and pulſe much the ſame as yeſterday. Repetatur collyrium. Let him gradually return to his former diet, but uſe no fermented liquors.

July 19. He continues better, his appetite is good. Pulſe regular and leſs weak: he finds himſelf gather ſtrength, and the nervous tremors are leſs troubleſome, but his eyes continue weak and watery. Repetatur collyrium. Let him now enjoy full diet, fermented liquors alone excepted.

July 21. His appetite continues good, he is ſenſibly ſtronger, and has no complaints, but of weakneſs of his eyes: keeps regular with reſpect to ſtools. Continuentur regimen and collyrium.

July 23. He recovers ſtrength very faſt.

July 25. Has catched cold, and thereby inflamed his eyes. Applic. Veſicat. nuchæ, hora decubitus.

July 28. The bliſter diſcharged well, and ſoon relieved his ophthalmia: continues to recover ſtrength.

August 2. His eyes are quite free from inflammation, but continue rather weak and watery; he has now very nearly recovered his natural ſtrength of body, and firmneſs of nerves.

August 5. He thinks he has now recovered his former vigour of conſtitution, or thereabout; and is totally free from complaints, excepting watery eyes.

Thus we have given a particular hiſtory of the caſe, and think the following circumſtances merit ſome notice.

1. That after a ſtate of apoplexy, or collapſe of the nervous ſyſtem, for an hour and a half, we found ſymptoms of the moſt violent excitement had taken place, even ſuch as conſtitute a conſiderable part of the character of phrenitis, or inflammation of the brain, viz. pain of the head, redneſs of the face and eyes, and an incapacity of bearing light and ſound, &c. Dolor capitis, rubor faciei et oculorum; lucis & ſoni intolerantia, &c.

2. That the urgency of ſymptoms required ſuch liberal evacuations (the loſs of bood alone, by eſtimation, being near 50 ounces) as to induce a conſiderable degree of debility, from which, and the more immediate effects of the electric

electric ſhock upon the ſyſtem, the nerves of a healthy ſtrong man became as ſuſceptible of tremors from the opening of a door, as thoſe of a delicate hyſterical woman.

3. That in nineteen days after (viz. from the 17th of July to the 5th of Auguſt), by the uſe of his wonted diet, and the remains of ſtrong aſſimilating powers, the patient had recovered his former vigour of conſtitution and firmneſs of nerves.

Upon the whole, it muſt be acknowleged that the caſe turned out ſingular in ſeveral reſpects, and we hope not wholly unuſeful in point of practice.

For although there can be no doubt of the propriety of the antiphlogiſtic treatment, whenever the morbid effects of lightening are found to be of the inflammatory kind; yet this example may ſerve to ſhew, to what extent the treatment may be ſucceſsfully carried, when ſymptoms are highly urgent.

II.

The History of a Case of obstructed Secretion of Urine. By Dr. John Clarke, *Physician at Newcastle.*

MR. H. aged 50, of a corpulent habit, formerly subject to severe nephritic paroxysms, and who at different times had voided several small stones by the urethra, on the 22d of May 1776 was seized with a pain on the region of the kidneys, and on the left side of the abdomen. He was sick at stomach, vomited frequently, was feverish, costive, and had no desire to make urine. Continuing in this way restless and pained, though to no great degree, he took a dose of salts and some quack medicines.

On the 27th of May, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, I was desired to visit him; I found him anxious and restless. He had an inclination to vomit, complained of a dull pain on the small of the back, and had slight twitches along the course of the ureters. His pulse was full, and beat only 80 pulsations in a minute; he had sweated none, but had some feverish heat and thirst; his belly was regular; he had

no

no motion to make urine, neither had he voided a ſingle drop for five days paſt. No fulneſs could be felt above the pubis, and he had no uneaſineſs when the region of the bladder was preſſed. Sixteen ounces of ſizy blood were taken from his arm. Warm fomentations, and a camphorated liniment were ordered to be applied frequently to the ſmall of the back, and along the courſe of the ureter. A turpentine clyſter was directed, and emulſio Arabica, with nitre, for common drink. In the evening he was rather eaſier, but having made no urine, the clyſter was ordered to be repeated; and a doſe of ſalts and manna, diſſolved in whey, was directed to be given in the morning.

On the 27th, he had a ſlight hiccup. He had ſeveral looſe ſtools, but the obſtruction of urine ſtill continued. He went into the warm bath at 12 o'clock. His pulſe being full, 12 ounces of blood were taken, and as he was very reſtleſs, a draught with Sal. Diuret. and Tinct. Theb. was ordered at bed-time.

On the 28th, he was very reſtleſs, and at times comatoſe in the night. This morning he laboured under inexpreſſible inquietude, though he complained of no pain; his eyes were ex-

ceedingly dull; he had ſtill no tenſion above the pubis; no inclination to make urine; neither had his perſpiration any urinous ſmell. The warm bath was again ordered, as he found temporary eaſe from the former; and two ſpoonfuls of the camphorated emulſion were preſcribed every three hours. In the afternoon, he made ſome drops of urine without any pain; at ſix in the evening Dr. Rotheram joined me in conſultation. We found our patient ſenſible, though inclinable to doſe. His pulſe being full, 12 ounces of blood were drawn from his arm, which was ſtill buffy. The turpentine clyſter, and anodyne draught were directed to be continued, and a cupful of decoction of Parietaria, with nitre, was ordered to be taken every four hours.

On the 29th, he was more comatoſe, and his pulſe began to ſink; in the morning he had made a ſpoonful of urine, which reſembled ſerum, and which had neither ſmell nor taſte. The catheter was this day introduced, but the bladder was found to be empty. At night the coma encreaſed, his face was convulſed, he had frequent hiccup and ſubſultus tendinum. A bolus, with Sal Succini and nitre, was given at bed-time, waſhing it down

with

with two ſpoonfuls of the camphorated emulſion.

On the 30th, at nine in the morning, his pulſe intermitted, his eyes were gloſſy, and he was inſenſible. The convulſions became more violent, and he expired at one o'clock in the afternoon. Soon after death, his face, neck, and breaſt, became emphyſematous and livid, and a conſiderable quantity of blood iſſued from the noſe and mouth.

Having with great difficulty obtained leave, the body was opened next day by Mr. Leighton. Upon dividing the integuments of the belly, we found the cellular membrane loaded with fat above an inch and a half thick. There was alſo a very great accumulation of fat in the omentum, and upon both kidneys, each of which, at a moderate computation, would have weighed a pound. In the pelvis of the right kidney was found a conſiderable quantity of gravel, and the right ureter, about the middle, was totally obſtructed by a ſtone of the ſize and ſhape of a horſe-bean. The portion betwixt this part and the kidney was almoſt entirely filled up with ſand. The left kidney appeared inflamed, and approaching to a gangrenous ſtate. In its pelvis were found

ſome gravel, and a ſtone of the ſize and the figure of an almond; and the ureter about the middle, was diſtended with a ſtone of a conical ſhape, reſembling in figure and ſize the laſt phalanx of the little finger. Above this obſtruction, and below the kidney, a ſmall quantity of ſerous fluid was depoſited, and about a ſpoonful and a half of a ſimilar fluid, without any urinous ſmell, in the pelvis of both kidneys. The bladder was quite empty, but appeared perfectly ſound, and contained a ſmooth oval ſtone which weighed upwards of three drachms.

III.

The Hiſtory of a ſingular Affection of Reſpiration, with an Account of the Appearances on Diſſection, by Dr. Seguin Henry Jackſon, *Phyſician in London.*

J. K. æt. 42, a married woman, was admitted on the 2d of April into the clinical ward of the Royal Infirmary at Edinburgh, when I had the honour of officiating as aſſiſtant to the clinical phyſicians. About three years before that, ſhe became affected with

with a difficulty of breathing, and pain about the region of the ſtomach, and in the left ſide immediately below the ſhort ribs; theſe complaints continued for about three months, and were carried off by taking ſome medicines.

She continued free of ſuch complaints till about half a year before her admiſſion into the hoſpital, when ſhe was again ſeized with dyſpnœa, which came on in a gradual manner, attended with a ſenſe of oppreſſion about the præcordia, but no pain in the ſide. With no other complaint but this difficulty of breathing ſhe continued to be diſtreſſed for about two months, gradually becoming worſe and worſe, and then ſhe became alſo affected with eructations of wind from her ſtomach, ariſing in conſtant ſucceſſion, and attended with a croaking noiſe.

At the time of her admittance into the Royal Infirmary her complaints were very ſevere.

She would then frequently complain of pain in different parts of the thorax; one while in the region of the liver, or in that part of the diaphragm connected with it, particularly when preſſed by the hand, or when the eructation was ſevere; another while in the left ſide;

ſide; and again, at other times, in the back, ſeemingly in the courſe of the diaphragm; ſhe was alſo much affected at times with palpitation of the heart.

The eructations of wind were very frequent, and generally relieved the dyſpnœa, but a ſenſe of ſuffocation remained a ſhort time after the belching.

A conſtant croaking noiſe attended her reſpiration, but was moſt conſiderable when the erructations came on. After any ſurprize her ſpeech was ſtopt, and the eructations of wind were increaſed. She was ſenſible of a ſtraitneſs in her cheſt, particularly in ſtooping, and of a conſtriction in her throat; her abdomen appeared tumified but without fluctuation, and rather tympanitic. Her face was in general fluſhed, and ſhe would ſometimes complain of a heat riſing in her ſtomach, and in the palms of her hands; ſhe had been much troubled with head-ach, but never with hyſteric fits. Her pulſe was always above the natural ſtandard, ſometimes up to 120. Her tongue clean, her belly in general bound, appetite changeable, no thirſt, menſes had appeared only once for three years paſt. She aſſigned no cauſe for her complaints, but ſaid ſhe had lived in a

damp

damp houſe, and had undergone conſiderable vexation.

After having remained in the Infirmary ſome weeks, ſhe was diſmiſſed much relieved, having been ſeveral times bled, and having uſed æther, bark, &c. When blood was drawn, it was always covered with a buffy coat. Two or three weeks after her diſmiſſion, I had an opportunity of ſeeing her at her own habitation, and found her in a melancholy ſituation, her former complaints having again returned with ſtill greater ſeverity. The ſtate of reſpiration was then as follows; on inſpiration ſhe was ſenſible of a reſiſtance to the entrance of the air, at the anterior part of the neck. At the ſame time a ſound was produced difficult to be deſcribed, but harſh, croaking, and ſometimes would very much reſemble that attending the croup; ſhe was alſo ſenſible, on inſpiration, of her ſtomach's ſwelling, and particularly ſo when ſhe was without ſtays.

At the end of inſpiration ſhe uttered her language diſtinctly, but only for a ſhort time; for when expiration ſucceeded ſhe eructated a great quantity of wind from her ſtomach. She did not now complain of any wind riſing from her bowels, though the abdomen was rather tumid.

With this condition of refpiration fhe was continually troubled, and complained of nothing elfe but a pain at the pit of her ftomach.

As venefection feemed formerly to have done her fervice, and as fhe was herfelf defirous of it, twelve ounces of blood were taken from her arm, but it did not afford her even temporary relief, and it was not again repeated.

She took frequent dofes of liquid laudanum and fpirit. Corn. Cerv. equal parts, for about a week, but without the flighteft relief, though fome degree of drowfinefs was produced; fhe was alfo bliftered at the ftomach. From the inutility of thefe remedies, I began to fufpect fome organic affection as the caufe of her trouble, and defpaired of doing her any fervice. Her ftrength began to fail her faft; fhe could fleep none from the difficulty of refpiration; and in a few days, quite worn out, fhe died.

I had the good fortune to infpect the body after death, and met with the following fatisfactory condition of the pneumonic organs.

The aperture of, and the paffage through the larynx, below its ventricles or finuffes, were fo much diminifhed from the natural fize, that it would with difficulty admit a fix-pence,

no more of the paſſage remaining than a narrow ſlit ſufficient for that purpoſe.

This diminution of the paſſage ſeemed to be owing to a thickening of the membrane lining the larynx, and it was ſo firm that it required much force to make the point of the fore-finger paſs between the edges of the afore mentioned ſlit.

The edges of the ventricles were alſo thicker than natural; none of the muſcles moving them could be diſtinctly traced.

The trachea was natural, but the lungs were quite collapſed and free of air, containing little more than a frothy fluid; ſo that their bulk was very inconſiderable, and the cavity of the thorax thereby to appearance empty.

The ſuperior ſurface of the diaphragm was ſlightly inflamed, particularly at its connection with the mediaſtinum.

The thyroide gland was alſo conſiderably larger than natural, and divided into two large lobes, one on each ſide of the trachea. There was no appearance of inflammation about either the larynx, thyroide gland, or trachea.

The following queſtions naturally preſent themſelves, from the event of this diſſection.

1. Does

1. Does not the preternatural condition of the larynx account fufficiently for the flatulence of the ftomach. For, may not the air, from the refiftance it met with at the larynx, have been partly forced to make its way into the ftomach?

The phœnomena of this affection render it probable. 1. Becaufe when the breathing was moft difficult, her flatulence was greateft. 2. She was fenfible of the fwelling of the ftomach during infpiration. 3. Whatever increafed the difficulty of breathing, increafed the flatulence. 4. The quantity of air evacuated far exceeded what could poffibly be the product of the primæ viæ. 5. She wanted the other fymptoms of a lofs of tone in the alimentary canal.

2. Does not this cafe render it dubious, whether the voice is folely produced by the ligaments of the larynx forming the ventricles?

3. Would not this cafe have been a favourable one for bronchotomy; or, would fuch have been hazardous, from the poffibility that fuch fymptoms might arife from a conftriction in the courfe of the trachea?

We cannot well determine this point, though we think it not probable that fuch an affection

tion of the voice could be produced in any other part but the larynx, thus morbidly conditioned, and that this would ſufficiently point out the ſeat of the diſeaſe, and incline us to favour the operation, after all other remedies had been previouſly employed without effect.

IV.

The Hiſtory of a Caſe of Retroverted Uterus. By Dr. John Evans, *Phyſician at Oſweſtry, Shropſhire.*

ON Friday evening, the 28th Auguſt, I was ſent for to Mary Jones, a poor woman (ſix miles from this town) of a delicate make, who had had ſeveral children, and was then ſuppoſed between two and three months advanced in her pregnancy.

About 15 or 16 days before, upon lifting up a heavy burden, ſhe ſuddenly felt a weight and uneaſy bearing down in the vagina, and was ſoon after ſeized with excruciating pains in the lower part of the belly, accompanied with a difficulty of making water, which made her dread a miſcarriage. Theſe complaints continued till I ſaw her. Upon my arrival I found

found a confiderable enlargement of the abdomen, and a total fuppreffion of urine. With fome difficulty I introduced the catheter, and drew off eight pints and a half. Afterwards a clyfter was thrown up, which produced a copious difcharge. She feemed that night much eafier. I adminiftered an opiate, in order to procure fome fleep, which fhe had been a ftranger to for feveral nights.

The next morning I vifited her again, and to my great difappointment was informed that her pain had returned about two hours after I had left her, the preceding evening. I then thought it advifeable to repeat the introduction of the catheter, by which two pints more of turbid urine were drawn off, and my patient was amazingly relieved.

Upon examination I was well convinced that this was a cafe of retroverted uterus. I then made an attempt to reduce it to its natural fituation, by introducing two fingers of my left-hand up the rectum, and my other hand up the vagina. I pufhed up the fundus uteri gently, at the fame time pulling down the upper part of the vagina. With a little perfeverance my endeavours happily fucceeded: I directed her to keep her bed for three or

I. four

four days, and ever fince fhe has been gradually recovering.

V.

The Hiftory of a Cafe of Retroverted Uterus. By Dr. Swan, *Phyfician at Dumbarton.*

I Was called on the 4th April, 1758, in the evening, to the wife of James M'Donald, in Old Killpatrick parifh; fhe was a tall well made woman, between three and four months gone with child, and had the preceding day got a fall going over a wall near her own houfe. Immediately after this fhe was taken with down-bearing pains and fuppreffion of urine. On examination I found the fundus uteri fallen down to the lower part of the pelvis prefenting like a large ball equally at the anus, and os externum uteri; a part of the vagina next to the perinæum fallen without the os externum; and the os tincæ turned forwards to the os pubis and raifed above, preffing on the neck of the urinary bladder; the bladder being at the fame time more diftended. Blood letting, clyfters, and fomentations had no effect in giving her relief. I drew off by

the aid of a catheter about ſix pounds of urine; but the vagina and neighbouring parts were ſo rigid, dry, and inflamed that I could not think of handling them, I therefore repeated the blood letting, emollient clyſters, and fomentations. That evening the urinary bladder ſeemed to be near as much diſtended as before, ſhe having paſſed no urine; the fundus uteri was ſtill low in the pelvis. About four pints of urine were taken off by the catheter, and the parts were not ſo dry, rigid, and inflamed as formerly, therefore with a finger in vagina and another in anus, I raiſed up the fundus uteri till the os tincæ came into its natural poſition, I directed her to keep in bed for ſome days, and to lie chiefly on either ſide with the nates raiſed, to make no great efforts or ſtraining at ſtool, to keep an open belly by clyſters, and to take an anodyne occaſionally. By theſe means ſhe recovered, had no relapſe, went on in her pregnancy, and at the uſual time was delivered of a ſtrong, healthy child.

SECT. III.

Medical News.

THE following account of the method of treating dropſy of the brain by mercury, has been communicated to Dr. Duncan, in a letter from Dr. Matthew Dobſon, phyſician in Liverpool.

"The caſe of *hydrocephalus internus* mentioned by Dr. Percival in the Medical Commentaries, volume V. page 174, and referred to by Dr. Simmons, page 420 of the ſame volume, was communicated to ſeveral of my medical friends in different parts of the kingdom, during the years 1775, 1776, and 1777. My reaſon for withholding it from the public, was the deſire of having a practice, which

ſome may conſider not only as new but hardy, ſupported by a ſtronger authority than that of a ſolitary caſe. But I no longer heſitate now to publiſh the caſe, as three indubitable inſtances of *hydrocephalus internus* have occurred, in which this method of cure has ſucceeded: and I hope that on ſtill farther trial it will be found the happy means of preſerving ſome lives, from the fatal effects of this formidable diſeaſe.

" I ſhall be obliged to any of thoſe gentlemen of the faculty who adopt the practice, if they will communicate to me the reſult of their experience, whether favourable or unfavourable. A more extenſive collection of caſes and facts, may enable me to make ſuch general obſervations as may be more clearly concluſive both with reſpect to the nature of the diſeaſe, and the probability of ſucceſs.

" The mercurial courſe was firſt tried in the following caſe.

Caſe of Hydrocephalus Internus.

" On the 13th of February 1775, I was called to the only ſon of Mr. C. a gentleman of this place: the child was between three and four

four years of age, had been indiſpoſed about eight days, and had frequently complained of pain in his head and wearineſs, and pains in his limbs; had been ſick by fits, and ſometimes vomited; was feveriſh, and could not bear the light.

"I was much alarmed on hearing this account, as the *hydrocephalus internus* had already proved fatal to three children of this family, who had all been under my care. And that this had been the diſeaſe was evident, both from the ſymptoms and the appearances on diſſection. But my alarm was much farther encreaſed, on examining the little patient. The pulſe I found very frequent and irregular. The head hot, the cheeks fluſhed, the pupils dilated, and a great degree of ſtrabiſmus. There remained no doubt with reſpect to the nature of the diſeaſe.

"An emetic, ſome calomel powders, and a purgative had been adminiſtered, without affording any relief. I directed the pediluvium, and emetic tartar to be given in ſuch doſes as to excite nauſea.

"February 14th. The ſymptoms the ſame, with frequent ſtartings, diſturbed ſleep, and

 toſſing

toffing from fide to fide on the pillow. A blifter was applied between the fhoulders, the pediluvium repeated, and the emetic tartar continued.

"15th. Comatofe, reftlefs, and fhrieking by fits. The pulfe flower than in health, and the eyes infenfible even to the impreffions of ftrong light.

"As I had no hope of doing any thing effectual for the recovery of my patient, I paid my vifits, prefcribed, and gave directions with a fore-boding and heavy heart. Anxioufly, however, confidering the cafe in different points of view, and fully convinced that it was vain to purfue the ufual line of practice, it occurred to me, that mercurials, fo far urged as to enter the courfe of circulation, and affect the falivary glands, might poffibly reach the fyftem of abforbents in the ventricles of the brain, and thus remove the extravafated fluid.

"The fhort continuance of the difeafe, and the apparent ftrength of my patient, were favourable to the trial of this method. No time, however, was to be loft. The parents were confulted, and readily gave their fanction to the propofal; for they were convinced that

that unlefs fome powerful fteps were taken, this their only fon, muft be numbered with thofe of their children, who had already fallen a facrifice to the difeafe.

" The mercurial courfe, therefore, was commenced and urged on with caution and expedition. In forty-eight hours the breath began to be offenfive, the gums were reddifh and fwelled, and the fymptoms of the difeafe, fo far as could be diftinguifhed, were fomewhat abated. In forty-eight hours more, the ptyalifm came on, and the difeafe was evidently declining. Between the 15th and the 22d he took twenty grains of calomel, and one drachm of the ftrongeft mercurial ointment was likewife rubbed in well upon the legs and thighs. The dofe of calomel was one grain, mixed with a little fugar, and repeated at fuch intervals as the circumftances of the cafe pointed out.

" After the 22d no more mercurials were adminiftered, a moderate ptyalifm continued for five or fix days, then gradually ceafed, and the difeafe was entirely removed. The bark was then given, as the beft tonic remedy after the mercurial courfe, and as the beft prefervative againft a relapfe. The ftrabifmus I obferved was the laft fymptom which difappeared.

"From the 15th, no other medicines were uſed except mercurials. I entertained the ſame favourable expectations with Dr. Simmons from the uſe of bliſters, but experience has convinced me that their operation is inadequate. The three ſiſters of the above patient, who all died of this diſeaſe, were treated with bliſters, and to one of them they were applied in ſucceſſion to the head, behind the ears, and between the ſhoulders."

* * * * *

The following extract of a letter from Dr. Percival to Dr. Duncan, concerning the new method of treating the dropſy of the brain, affords additional confirmation of the efficacy of that practice.

"Though the arguments of your very ingenious correſpondent Dr. Simmons have not produced any change in my ſentiments; yet I think myſelf obliged by his candour, and honoured by his politeneſs. And as I am perſuaded that his ſtrictures proceed from the love of truth and a ſpirit of benevolence, I doubt not it will afford him ſatisfaction to hear, that farther experience has furniſhed me with

* See the Medical Commentaries, vol. v. p. 171.

fuller

fuller evidence of the ſafety and efficacy of mercury, timely adminiſtered, in the *hydrocephalus internus*.

"One of my own children, a girl, aged three years and three months, has lately been a ſevere ſufferer under this alarming malady. As ſoon as the characteriſtic ſymptoms of the diſeaſe clearly manifeſted themſelves, I laid aſide all other remedies, convinced, by repeated obſervation, of their inſufficiency, and truſted ſolely, though with much ſolicitude, to the internal and external uſe of mercury. In forty-eight hours, ſigns of amendment appeared, and her recovery was perfected in ſix days. During this ſpace of time, thirteen grains of calomel were adminiſtered, and ſeven ſcruples of the *unguentum mercuriale fortius* carefully rubbed into her legs.

"I do not ſend you a detail of the caſe, becauſe I ſhall probably offer it myſelf to the public; for having marked every circumſtance of the diſeaſe with the watchful and anxious attention of a parent, I may, perhaps, have acquired a more intimate knowlege of its nature, and of the peculiar operation of mercury in the cure of it, than can be obtained in the ordinary courſe of a phyſician's practice.

I am

I am willing to hope, at leaſt, that I have been able to guard againſt deception.

"In the treatment of the *hydrocephalus internus*, no remedy has had a more general trial than bliſters: I have often employed them myſelf; but never yet ſaw any inſtance in which they could be ſaid to produce other than palliative effects. The publication of Dr. Ambroſe Dawſon, referred to in the laſt number of the Medical Commentaries, has not yet fallen into my hands; but that learned and judicious phyſician informs me, that his notes were not ſufficiently minute and particular to aſcertain the caſes to be of the malady in queſtion. The fatality of the diſorder, he ſays, convinced him that purgatives and diuretics are given on a bad theory, and the main deſign of his paper is to incite the faculty to attempt the diſcovery of a more ſucceſsful method of cure.

"Mention is made of only one bliſter, in the curious hiſtory of a dropſy of the brain, communicated ſome time ago by my friend Dr. Dobſon. This was applied between the ſhoulders, on the 14th of Feb. 1775. On the 15th, the diſeaſe ſeems, by the doctor's letter which now lies before me, to have made a rapid pro-

progrefs; the mercurial courfe was therefore commenced, and continued till the 22d, when the child was out of danger."

* * * * *

We mentioned in a former number, the death of that ingenious gentleman Mr. Charles Darwin, whofe early exertions, in the line of medicine and philofophy, could not fail to infpire the higheft future expectations. A plain, but neat marble monument, has been lately erected to his memory, in the church-yard belonging to the chapel of St. Cuthbert, at Edinburgh, on which is the following infcription.

CHARLES DARWIN,

Was born at Litchfield, Sept. 3, 1758,

And died at Edinburgh, May 15, 1778.

Poffeffed of uncommon abilities and activity, he had acquired knowlege in every department of Medical and Philofophical Science much beyond his years.

He gained the firft medal offered by the Æfculapian Society for a criterion to diftinguifh Matter from Mucus; and had prepared a Thefis for his Graduation, on the Retrogade Motion of the Lymphatic Veffels, in fome Difeafes.

He

He cultivated with ſucceſs the friendſhip of ingenious men; and was interred by favour of Dr. A. Duncan, in this his burial place.

Fame's boaſtful chiſſel Fortune's ſilver plume
Mark but the mould'ring urn, or deck the tomb.

When it was known that the friends of Mr. Darwin intended to place a monumental inſcription over his grave, a few lines written by his intimate friend Dr. Fowler, now phyſician at Stafford, were inſerted in the Birmingham and York Chronicle, for the conſideration of his friends; and although the inſcription which has already been given, had before that been adopted, yet, we imagine, it will not be diſagreeable to any one who has a due regard for the memory of diſtinguiſhed worth, and who underſtands how far the conduct of mankind to the dead has an effect upon the living, that we give place to the ſentiments of a friend, intimately acquainted with the merit and abilities of the deceaſed.

To the memory of the late ingenious Mr. Charles Darwin of Litchfield, Student of Medicine at Edinburgh. Who departed this life, May

15,

15, 1778, before he had reached the 20th year of his age.

Peace to his aſhes—to his memory fame;
Let theſe few lines intrinſic worth proclaim.
With learning, judgment, wit, and genius bleſt,
A noble ardour fir'd his youthful breaſt;
Eager of ſcience, he explor'd each part,
But eager moſt he graſp'd the healing art;
His zeal was ſuch that ſkill'd beyond a youth,
He died a martyr in purſuit of truth;
Yet not before his genius bright had ſhone,
And gain'd him laurels and a high renown;
Oh had he liv'd till learned age had run
The glorious race, his youth had but begun,
Then future myriads, by diſeaſes torn,
Had thankful bleſt the day that he was born.

* * * * *

A tranſlation of the Primæ Lineæ Phyſiologiæ, of Dr. Haller, has lately been publiſhed at Edinburgh. In the advertiſement which is prefixed to this work, the tranſlators, after mentioning the different editions of the original, obſerve, that what they now offer to the public is an exact tranſlation of the edition printed at Edinburgh, under the direction of Dr. Cullen; and they have not omitted a tran-

tranſlation of the elaborate Index, which was ſubjoined to it, in which a compendious analyſis is given of the whole work.

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On Monday the 12th of April, being the anniverſary of the birth day of the illuſtrious Harvey, the Harveian Oration inſtituted with the view of doing honour to his memory was delivered at Edinburgh, by Dr. Charles Webſter. The ſubject of this oration was an account of the character and writings of the late juſtly celebrated Dr. Haller.

We formerly gave our readers reaſon to expect that they ſhould find in this work a ſhort hiſtory of that illuſtrious medical philoſopher, and we hope ſoon to fulfil our intention. But we are ſtill under the neceſſity of delaying it. We flatter ourſelves however, that ſome intended alterations which will probably take place in this work, with the commencement of our next volume, may hereafter prevent ſimilar accidents.

* * * * *

After the delivery of the Harveian Oration at Edinburgh, the annual prize medal, given with the view of promoting experimental inquiry

quiry at that place, was publicly delivered to Dr. Edward Stevens, from the Island of St. Croix.

Our readers may remember that the subject proposed for the prize dissertation, was an Experimental Inquiry concerning the red Colour of the Blood; the prize was unanimously adjudged to a Dissertation to which was prefixed the following motto.

Tentanda via est qua me quoque possum
Tollere humo, victorque virum volitare per ora.

This Dissertation was found to be written by Dr. Stevens. Without pretending to give any particular account of it, we shall only at present observe, that it consists almost entirely of a detail of experiments which seem to have been instituted with no less judgment than ingenuity, and conducted with the most accurate attention. The general conclusion from his experiments, is, that the red colour of the blood, depends on the principle of inflammability which it contains.

The subject prepared for the prize Dissertation for next year is, an Experimental Inquiry concerning the Nature and Properties of the coagulable Lymph or Gluten of the Blood.

The

The competitors for this prize muſt tranſmit their Diſſertations to Dr. Duncan, on or before the firſt of January, 1779. To theſe Diſſertations it is required that each candidate ſhall prefix a motto, and with the Diſſertation he muſt ſend a ſealed letter, containing his name and place of abode. The ſame motto muſt be written on the back of the letter with that which is prefixed to the diſſertation.

* * * * *

Mr. de la Blancherie of Paris, has lately ſet on foot an inſtitutition for holding a general correſpondence relative to ſciences, arts, letters, and the lives of illuſtrious men, diſtinguiſhed by their learning, in all countries.

The Royal Academy of Sciences, ſome time ago, appointed a committee to examine into this project, who returned a very favourable report, and recommended it as being a ſcheme which deſerved encouragement and the aſſiſtance of the learned.

From this inſtitution it is intended, that there ſhall be a weekly publication, containing intelligence from the republic of learning and arts; and from the account which is given by the members of the Royal Academy of Sciences of

of the labour and expence which Mr. de la Blancherie has beſtowed, as well as from the active zeal which he poſſeſſes, there is no reaſon to hope that this publication will be highly conducive to the progreſs of uſeful ſciences.

* * * * *

The Medical Society of Edinburgh have lately come to the reſolution of making an important addition to their buſineſs, which, it is hoped, may be attended with the moſt uſeful conſequences. Beſides their uſual weekly meetings, at which papers read by their ordinary members, are the ſubject of diſcuſſions, calculated principally for the improvement of the induſtrious ſtudent; they are to hold alſo regular monthly meetings, for reading and conſidering practical papers in medicine, and medical philoſophy, intended for publication. They have appointed a committee for conducting this publication, and they have addreſſed their abſent members, many of whom are practitioners of high reputation in every part of the Britiſh dominions, ſoliciting communications for their tranſactions. We ſhall here preſent our readers with a copy of their

 cir-

circular letter, which explains the nature of their intention, and gives a lift of their committee. And we may further add, that although hitherto they have addreffed their own members only, yet communications, fuited to their defign, from any other practitioners will be highly acceptable.

"Sir,

"THE Medical Society of Edinburgh, lately erected into a body politic, by a charter from the crown, have elected a committee for the purpofe of conducting an annual publication. The refpectable footing the Society is now on, the very eminent names in almoft every part of the world which grace its regifter, the valuable communications with which it is frequently favoured, hitherto loft to the public, and a defire to extend medical knowledge, are the motives to this undertaking.

"The following gentlemen are appointed the committee for publication: Drs. Cullen, Monro, Duncan, Stevens, and Stapleton; Meff. Hamilton, Aitken, Ruffel, Ford, Pellet, Logan, Broughton, Cleghorn, and Quin.

Any

"Any communications on medicine, or subjects connected with that ſcience, tranſmitted to us, will be gratefully received.

Edinburgh, March 1, 1779.

We are, Sir,

Your moſt obedient Servants,

ANDREW WARDROPE, M. D.
CHARLES WEBSTER, M. D.
Secretaries to the Committee for Publication."

* * * * *

Dr. David M'Bride, whoſe genius and induſtry entitled him to the firſt rank among the philoſophers and phyſicians of the preſent age, died lately in Dublin. We were in hopes that we ſhould have been able, in the preſent number, to have introduced ſome account of his life, writings, and character; but we have not hitherto obtained ſuch intelligence as to put it in our power to preſent our readers with an account, which could ſatisfy the laudable curioſity of thoſe who have a juſt eſteem for diſtinguiſhed merit.

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Dr. John Rutherford, Emeritus Professor of the Practice of Medicine, in the university of Edinburgh, and one of those eminent teachers to whom the medical school at Edinburgh is indebted for its origin, lately died at that place in an advanced age. Although Dr. Rutherford had, for several years, retired from the duties of public teaching, as well as from the fatigues of extensive practice, yet he retained to the last, that penetrating judgment which distinguished him ever in life as a successful practitioner.

SECT. IV.

List of New Books.

TAbles of the ſkeleton and muſcles of the human body. By Bernard Siegfried Albinus. Tranſlated from the Latin. Folio Edinburgh.

Firſt lines of phyſiology. By Baron Albertus Haller, M. D. tranſlated from the correct Latin edition, which was printed under the inſpection of William Cullen, M. D. to which is added, a tranſlation of the elaborate index compoſed for that edition. 8vo. Edinburgh.

Firſt lines of the practice of phyſic, for the uſe of ſtudents in the univerſity of Edinburgh, by William Cullen, M. D. and P. Vol. II. 8vo. Edinburgh.

Remarks on that kind of palſy of the lower limbs, which is frequently found to accompany a curvature of the ſpine, and is ſuppoſed to

to be caufed by it. Together with the method of cure; to which are added, obfervations on the neceffity and propriety of amputation in certain cafes, and under certain circumftances. By Percival Pott, F. R. S. 8vo. London.

Synopfis medica, or a fhort view of the modern practice of phyfic, with a pharmacopœia extemporanea. Vol. I. 8vo. London.

An account of the fcarlet fever and fore throat, or fcarlatina anginofa, particularly as it appeared at Birmingham in the year 1778. By William Withering, M. D. 8vo. London.

A treatife on the malignant angina, or putrid ulcerous fore throat; to which are added fome remarks on the angina trachealis. By J. Johnftone, M. D. Phyfician at Worcefter. 8vo. London.

An effay on the confequences attending injudicious bleeding in pregnancy. By George Wallis. M. D. 8vo. London.

The complete Englifh phyfician, or an univerfal library of family medicine. By Alexander Gordon, M. D. 8vo. London.

Every patient his own doctor, or the fick man's triumph over death and the grave. By Lewis Robinfon, M. D. 8vo.

A letter to Dr. Hardy, Phyſician, on the hints he has given concerning the origin of the gout, in his late publication on the Devonſhire cholic. By Francis Riollay, M. B. 8vo. London.

A philoſophical inquiry into the cauſe of animal heat: with incidental obſervations on ſeveral phyſiological and chemical queſtions, connected with the ſubject. By P. Dugud Leſlie, M. D. 8vo. London.

An eſſay on the cure of abſceſſes by cauſtic, and on the treatment of wounds and ulcers; with obſervations on ſome improvements in ſurgery. By P. Clare, Surgeon. 8vo. London.

Hiſtory of the origin of Medicine. By John Coakely Lettſom, M. D. 4to. London.

A treatiſe on the hydrocele. By Laurence Nannoni. 8vo. London.

Remarks on Dr. Lettſom's letter to Sir Robert Barker, and George Stacpoole, Eſq. upon general inoculation. By the hon. Baron Dimſdale. 8vo. London.

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MEDICAL

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL

COMMENTARIES.

By a SOCIETY in EDINBURGH.

Attamen errores non ſunt artis ſed artificum.
NEWTON.

VOLUME SIXTH.

PART III.

LONDON:
Printed for J. MURRAY, No. 32. Fleet-ſtreet;
M. DRUMMOND, J. BELL, W. CREECH,
and C. ELLIOT, *Edinburgh*;

M,DCC,LXXIX.

MEDICAL COMMENTARIES.

SECT. I.

An Account of Books.

I.

Societatis Medicæ Havnienſis Collectanea.—Cum Figuris Æri inciſis. Vol. II. 8vo. Havniæ.

IN a former number of our Commentaries, ſome account was given of the principal papers contained in the firſt volume of this work, as well as of the ſociety by whom it is publiſhed. The volume now before us contains no leſs than thirty-ſix diſſertations upon different ſubjects. We cannot therefore, attempt to give an analyſis of each of theſe, but muſt confine our obſervations to a few.

And

And among others the following, from their intereſting nature, ſeem to claim particular attention.

Obſervatio de Febre putrida petechiali a Fœtore Piſcium ſalitorum putrefactorum. Autore V. B. Aaſkow.

The dreadful effects which enſue to the human ſpecies, from the putrid exhalations of ſtagnating water, or of other putreſcent ſubſtances, are now ſo generally known, eſpecially, as our author obſerves, ſince the publications of Lanſciſi, Pringle, and Lind upon this ſubject, that it is ſcarce neceſſary to trouble the world with other inſtances of the ſame nature. The publication, however, of the following obſervation, in his opinion, may, perhaps, have ſome influence in putting a ſet of people upon their guard, who, from their frequent confinement to a very ſmall ſpace, can never be too attentive in preſerving a purity of the air around them.

A thirty-two gun frigate went upon a four weeks cruiſe to the Baltic, in May, 1773. There were 180 men on board, all in high health, and in good ſpirits, at the time of their ſetting out.

out. The weather happened to be rainy at the beginning of the voyage, but no other circumſtance occurred, which could give any reaſon to dread that the crew would be unhealthy. For the firſt fortnight the hands all enjoyed very good health; but about that time a very diſagreeable putrid fetor was obſerved over all the fore-part of the ſhip, and by degrees it extended over the whole veſſel. A putrid diſorder ſoon commenced among the ſailors, with which a great number were ſeized; and it was remarkable, that thoſe were firſt attacked with it, who ſlept in the fore-part of the ſhip, where this ſmell was firſt perceivable. On the contrary, thoſe were laſt in being ſeized, whoſe apartments were in the moſt diſtant parts of veſſel.

As the putreſcent effluvia, which for ſome time had prevailed in the ſhip, was immediately ſuſpected to be the cauſe of the ſickneſs, all the different apartments were examined, but although the ſtricteſt ſearch was made in order to detect the cauſe of the fetor, yet nothing ſatisfactory could be diſcovered. The fetor became daily more intolerable, and the ſickneſs among the men increaſing in the ſame

proportion, they were at laſt, about the middle of June, obliged to put into port.

A farther ſcrutiny being now ſet on foot, the cauſe of all the miſchief was at laſt diſcovered; in the ſalted fiſh intended for the proviſion of the ſhip. To the under ſtrata of theſe it was found that ſome ſalt water had got acceſs, and as the upper ſtratum of the whole remained ſweet and untainted, every cauſe of ſuſpicion had thereby been prevented from falling on that quarter.

Every putreſcent article being thrown over board, and the ſhip having undergone a thorough cleanſing, ſhe again ſet ſail in the month of July; but ſo difficult is it effectually to eradicate this cauſe of diſeaſe, when once it has got acceſs to a ſhip, that, notwithſtanding every attempt for the purification of the veſſel, the ſickneſs among the men ſtill continued to prevail, and at laſt got to ſuch a height as obliged them again to come into port, till ſome more effectual means could be fallen upon, for removing the cauſe of their diſaſters.

Our author afterwards gives ſome account of the ſymptoms which occurred in the diſ-

order

order thus produced; but as he has few or no obſervations upon the method of cure practiſed. And as the appearances which the diſeaſe exhibited, did not differ materially from the general run of putrid fevers, it is not here neceſſary to give a particular detail of them.

Obſervatio de Tænia ope ſtanni raſi expulſa. Autore Sibbern.

A young woman, aged twenty-five, was ſeized with a hoarſeneſs, and pricking pain in the fauces, but without any ſymptom of angina, or any other local affection; ſhe was affected alſo with a dry cough, cardialgia, an obſtinate coſtiveneſs, a troubleſome pain in the left hypochondrium, a ravenous appetite, ſuppreſſion of the menſes, a paleneſs of countenance, and defection of the ſpirits.

Worms being ſuſpected as the cauſe of the diſeaſe, calomel with rhubarb, valerian, and other anthelmintic medicines were preſcribed, but with no advantage.

At laſt recourſe was had to powder of tin, conjoined with jalap; two drams of the former, and half a dram of the latter, being made into a bolus with honey, were given for a doſe.

a doſe. After three doſes of the medicine had been taken, a worm of the tænia kind was paſſed, no leſs than thirty-eight yards in length; and although the remedy was ſtill continued, no more of theſe animals were diſcharged, and in a ſhort ſpace of time the patient got into a ſtate of perfect health.

The worm was intended to have been put into a bottle of ſpirits, with a view to its preſervation; but, by miſtake, it was put into a bottle of vinegar; and as, in a ſhort time after being immerſed in this fluid, it became perfectly black, our author ſuppoſes that vinegar may one time or other be brought into uſe as an anthelmintic.

Tentamina Electrica in Animalibus inſtituta Particula prima. Autore P. C. Abildgaard.

Various opinions, our author obſerves, have prevailed with reſpect to the manner in which lightning operates on the bodies of animals, in depriving them of life.

Some have ſuppoſed that death on theſe occaſions, is occaſioned by a very high degree of rarefaction, induced by the thunder on the atmoſphere. Others allege, that it in general pro-

proceeds from ruptures in the blood-veffels and nerves; and fome again affert, that death in fuch inftances is induced merely by the violent concuffion given to the nervous fyftem.

With a view to throw fome light upon this fubject, a fet of electrical experiments were undertaken by our author. A few of thefe are now publifhed, and the reft we are made to expect in fome future publication of the fociety.

A colt, three months old, was at firft made choice of for the fubject of thefe experiments; but the ftrongeft fhocks our author could give could not kill it; the contents of ten large bottles were, at different times, made to pafs through the head; but although the animal was thereby knocked down, and ftumbled a little, it always inftantly recovered again.

A common hen was now fixed upon; and it was found that a fhock paffed through the head, from one of the bottles only, was fufficient to produce death; at leaft after receiving the fhock, the animal feemed deprived of every fenfe, and could not be affected by any kind of irritation.

Among

Among other means of applying irritation, it occured to our author to make ſome trials of repeated electrical ſhocks. And accordingly different ſhocks were given to the head, of nearly the ſame ſtrength as the one originally given from one of the bottles, but all to no purpoſe, the animal ſtill remaining to all appearance dead. At laſt, however, a ſhock being made to paſs from the ſternum to the back, life inſtantly returned, and the animal immediately walked about as if nothing had happened.

The ſame experiment was afterwards at different times repeated, and always with the ſame effect; the ſhocks given at the breaſt always counteracting effectually thoſe given at the head.

Several ſmart ſhocks being made to paſs through the head of a cock, he was thereby not only rendered to all appearance dead, but conſiderable quantities of blood were diſcharged from his mouth and noſe; he inſtantly recovered, however, on receiving a ſhock at the breaſt.

To prevent all manner of deception, and to determine exactly whether theſe animals would recover from the effects of the firſt ſhock upon

upon the head, without the intervention of the other given to the breaſt, another hen, and the cock with which the former experiment was made, were ſeized, and one ſhock made to paſs through the head of each, of the ſame ſtrength, being given both at the ſame inſtant from the ſame bottle. The animals being both thereby rendered entirely deſtitute of ſenſe and irritability, were left lying upon the ground till next morning, when they were found perfectly ſtiff and cold; nor could they be again recovered, either by the effects of electricity, or by any other means that were attempted.

The experiments already related by Dr. Abildgaard, may, we think, not only lead to probable conjectures, as to the cauſe of death from lightning, but alſo, perhaps, to important diſcoveries with reſpect to the means of recovery in ſuch a caſe. The author, however, has delayed his concluſions from theſe, as well as the relation of farther experiments, to a future volume of the work. With an account of theſe, therefore, we may hope ſoon be able to preſent our readers.

De Paresi Metastatica Brachii sinistri a Gonorrhœa.
Autore Joanne Wilhelmo Gulbrand.

A young man, aged twenty-six, of a sanguine temperament, was suddenly seized with a pain, and paralytic affection of his left arm; which came to such a degree of inveteracy as entirely to destroy both sense and motion, not only of the arm, but also of the hand and fingers.

A surgeon was first called, and afterwards a physician, who prescribed blood-letting, blisters, the use of camphor, and some saline medicines; but all to no purpose. Emollient cataplasms and fomentations were afterwards had recourse to, spirit of sal ammoniac, and other stimulating applications, were likewise applied; but no advantage accruing from any of them, the assistance of our author was at last desired.

As the disease continued to resist obstinately the use of every ordinary remedy, and as the patient now gave information that he had for some time laboured under a gonorrhœa, which by some quack medicine had been suddenly put a stop to, immediately before the appearance of the paralytic affection of the arm,

arm, that circumſtance was immediately ſuſpected as the cauſe of his diſorder.

A courſe of mercury, in the form of Baron Van Swieten's ſolution, was accordingly preſcribed; together with an electary of ſarſaparilla conjoined with rhubarb, guaiacum, and ſena; and a decoction of burdock and guaiacum to be uſed as ordinary drink. By the uſe of theſe remedies, the pain of the arm gradually abated, as did alſo the paralytic affection; and in a ſhort time the patient was reſtored to perfect health. Soon after he began the courſe now mentioned, the diſcharge from the urethra was obſerved to return, and it was remarkable, that, according as the diſcharge increaſed in quantity, the ſeveral ſymptoms of the diſeaſe became leſs violent.

Our author takes occaſion to remark, that almoſt all the bad effects, ſuch as violent rheumatiſms &c. which frequently reſult from courſes of mercury, are effectually prevented by conjoining to the mercury the uſe of gentle laxatives, and of mild diaphoretic diluent drinks, ſuch as thoſe already mentioned.

II.

Advice to Lying-in Women, chiefly reſpecting the Cuſtom of drawing the Breaſts. By C. Cruttwell, *Surgeon at Bath.* 12*mo.* Bath.

THE intention of this treatiſe is to encounter a practice, which, according to our author, is founded on prejudice, and is, at the ſame time, unnatural, painful, and even dangerous. Theſe concluſions are not preſented as the reſult of ſpeculative reaſoning, but as founded on experience; while, at the ſame time, he aſſures us, that the practice of drawing the breaſts, however, powerfully ſupported by cuſtom, may be omitted with ſafety and eaſe.

The author introduces his obſervations on the ſubject, by giving a ſhort deſcription of the breaſts, and ſome account of their uſe. The ſubſtance of his obſervations is, that they are glandular bodies, appropriated to the purpoſes of ſecretion, and that the liquor ſecreted is by nature intended for the great and good purpoſe of nouriſhing mankind in their infant ſtate. While he accounts for the white colour of

of the milk, from its being a ſecretion which takes place almoſt as ſoon as the chyle enters the blood, he points out alſo the influence which food and drink of different kinds have, as affecting this ſecretion. And from the influence of intoxicating liquors on infants, if taken by the mother when the breaſts are empty, he concludes that the moſt reaſonable method of encountering the diſeaſes of infants, is from giving medicines by the mouth of the mother.

In the caſe of thoſe mothers who ſuckle their own infants, if the child be put early to the breaſt, obſtruction will ſeldom be met with; but if the child be not put to the breaſt before the third day, this organ becomes full, turgid, and ſomewhat painful. In this caſe the infant is often unable to draw forth the milk, and not ſo much from the urgency of preſent ſymptoms, as with the view of preventing abſceſſes, ſchirrhus, cancer, and the like; it has been a common practice to hire a woman for the purpoſe of drawing the breaſts. By this means our author affirms, that endeavours to prevent imaginary evils are productive of real diſeaſe. For if in this ſtate of fullneſs and hardneſs, the breaſt were guarded againſt every external injury,

injury, the fwelling would fubfide, even in a few hours, and the child might be put to it with fafety and with effect. On the other hand, external irritation at this time, fuch as that which muft arife from drawing the breafts, produces inflammation and all its confequences, fever, abfcefs, and the like; and although the author does not pofitively affert, that thefe accidents proceed only from this caufe, yet he affirms, that, in his own practice, he never met with any inftance of milk-fever or abfcefs in the breaft, where that organ had not been drawn, or had not received fome external injury.

Having formed this conclufion refpecting the caufe of thefe fymptoms, Mr. Cruttwell next proceeds to lay down thofe directions, by which fuch accidents may beft be prevented. Firft, he confiders the meafures which are to be followed when the child is to be fuckled by the mother; and afterwards, when it is not to be fuckled. In the firft cafe, he advifes that the child fhould be put to the breaft in about twelve hours after delivery; and that, previous to this, no food fhould be given it. If from neglecting this, the breafts become turgid, and affected with a throbbing pain tend-

ing

ing to inflammations, he ſtill adviſes that they ſhould not be meddled with. And he aſſures us, that if the affection be not ſupported by the heat of the room, by cordial medicines, hot liquors, or ſimilar cauſes, the throbbing and fullneſs will ceaſe in ſix, eight, or at fartheſt in twelve hours. When external injuries have been ſuch, that a cure cannot thus be effected, our author adviſes, the application of the ſaponaceous cerate, from which he tells us that the obſtruction will be reſolved and the milk re-abſorbed. When this fails of effect, and a ſuppuration enſues, he adviſes, that the matter ſhould be diſcharged merely by a ſlight puncture, which he affirms, will in all caſes be perfectly ſufficient. And after an opening is thus made, he thinks, that the ſaponaceous cerate is much preferable to thoſe poultices which are in general recommended.

The directions which he gives in caſes where a child is not to be ſuckled, or where, from any ſupervening diſeaſe, it becomes neceſſary that a child ſhould be removed from the breaſt, are nearly the ſame with thoſe which have been mentioned above. He condemns the uſe of all ſpirituous applications or plaſters, applied with the view of repelling. And on

on the other hand, when milk is accumulated in the breaſts, ſo as to produce a throbbing pain, he conſiders the practice of drawing them to be both unneceſſary and improper. He affirms, that when they are left to nature, they will never be attended with any bad conſequences. This practice he recommends as the reſult of long and attentive experience, unbiaſſed by prejudice, and ſupported by ſucceſs.

III.

De Uſu Veſicantium in Febribus acutis, ac ſpeciatim in ſananda pleuritide, accuratius determinando Commentatio. Auctore Balth. Lud. Tralles. *Seren. Duc. Saxo-Gothani. Conſil. et Archiat.* 8*vo.* Wratiſlaviæ.

THE chief intention of the treatiſe before us, is to point out the impropriety of a frequent uſe of bliſters, in diſorders of the febrile kind; a practice, our author remarks, which of late has been too indiſcriminately employed.

Various inſtances might be enumerated of the truth of this aſſertion, but in none does it appear more remarkable than in caſes of apoplexy.

plexy. In ſome ſpecies of the diſorder, bliſters may probably be had recourſe to with advantage, but nothing, we are told, can be more detrimental, than the practice, which, even in the inflammatory apoplexy, ſo univerſally prevails, of applying bliſters to the head, neck, &c. In every ſuch inſtance, our author affirms that by the ſtimulus they produce, they muſt certainly tend to aggravate the diſorder.

After giving an hiſtorical account of the introduction of cantharides as an article in medicine; and having ſhewn, that as yet their properties and the manner of applying them are by no means ſufficiently aſcertained, our author then proceeds to enquire into the propriety of the uſe of bliſters in fevers.

As fever conſiſts in an increaſed degree of heat, with an unnatural quickneſs of circulation; and as the application of bliſters are univerſally allowed to be attended with an augmentation of both, our author is of opinion that they can never in ſuch inſtances be with propriety uſed, as they muſt always tend to aggravate the very ſymptoms they were intended to remove.

The opinions of Freind, Cloffius, and others, who have recommended blifters in febrile diforders, are particularly enquired into, and attempted to be overturned; but the writings of Sir John Pringle upon this fubject, are moft feverely animadverted on, as tending to eftablifh the application of blifters as a general practice in topical inflammations, efpecially in pleurifies. This is a mode of treatment, which, our author is convinced, muft in general be productive of the worft effects. As in cafes of pleurify, a general rigidity of fibres and hardnefs of pulfe almoft always occur; inftead of blifters, which feem entirely repugnant to the removal of either of thefe circumftances, warm emollient applications externally are recommended, together with the internal ufe of bland, demulcent, cooling medicines. Blood-letting however is the principal remedy we are directed to depend upon; by a proper ufe of which our author, in the courfe of an extenfive practice of forty years, in a large city, has feldom or never loft a patient in pleurify, when the difeafe had not been previoufly improperly treated, or when the diforder was not too far advanced before he happened to be called in.

But

But although our author by no means approves of the uſe of bliſters in real inflammatory affections, yet he does not attempt to deny their utility in various occurrences in other diſorders; and the following are enumerated by him as circumſtances which, in general, point out the propriety of their application.

1. Bliſters, he obſerves, ſeem to be evidently indicated in ſuch diſorders as ariſe from languor and imbecility, and where of conſequence a ſtimulus appears to be wanting. Where the vis vitæ appears to be in too debilitated a ſtate for effecting a removal of the diſeaſe; and where a quickened circulation ſeems to be needed.

2. They appear particularly proper in all ſuch affections as are attended with abundance of ſerous pituitous humours; and in cold, phlegmatic temperaments. Our author, likewiſe, agrees with Baglivi, in recommending bliſters in thoſe diſorders of corpulent people, ſuppoſed to be attended with what he terms, a viſcid diatheſis of the blood; from his belief that even the external application of cantharides may produce a diſſolved attenuated ſtate of the juices.

3. Bliſters are with more propiety had recourſe to in diſorders of cold, moiſt, northern regions, than in warmer climates; and of courſe they may be uſed with more freedom, we are told, in winter than in ſummer.

4. Applications of this nature are particularly proper, when it is intended to relieve the part diſeaſed, by producing an irritation and diſcharge of matter, in a ſound, and diſtant part.

5. Our author agrees with Dr. de Haen in recommending the topical application of bliſters to parts immediately pained; provided all the uſual remedies have been previouſly had recourſe to without effect.

6. Bliſters are recommended in ſuch caſes of convulſive, and paralytic diſorders, as appear to proceed from morbid ſtates of the fluids; but ought always to be avoided, we are told, in affections of that nature where irritability alone is ſuſpected as the cauſe.

Theſe, our author remarks, are the only circumſtances which can ever indicate the propriety of having recourſe to bliſters; a ſpecies of remedy, he concludes, never in any reſpect neceſſary in the cure of fever.

IV.

IV.

A Treatiſe on the malignant Angina, or putrid and ulcerous Sore Throat. To which are added, ſome Remarks on the Angina Trachealis. By J. Johnſtone, *M. D. 8vo.* Worceſter.

THE principal part of this diſſertation was publiſhed five years ago, as a theſis, at Edinburgh. But the author, having ſince that time had an opportunity of making ſeveral valuable additions to it, has now thought proper to preſent it to the public in its preſent form.

Dr. Johnſtone adopts the definition of this diſorder as given by Dr. Cullen, under the ſecond ſpecies of cynanche, viz. "a red painful ſwelling of the tonſils, and mucous membrane of the fauces, attended with ulcers, which are covered with white, or aſh-coloured ſloughs, with a putrid exanthematous fever, and with difficulty of breathing and ſwallowing.

From many paſſages in the writings of Hippocrates, Celſus, and other ancients, Dr. Johnſtone endeavours to prove, that they were

 well

well acquainted with this diſeaſe. How far he is right in this conjecture, our readers will beſt determine, from comparing their writings with the very full and accurate enumeration of ſymptoms, which they will find in this treatiſe.

After giving a very diſtinct hiſtory of the diſeaſe, the author next proceeds to the diagnoſis, or means of diſtinction between this and ſome other ſpecies of angina. The inflammatory angina, is, we are told, of every other diſeaſe the moſt liable to be confounded with the putrid ſore throat.

Children, women, the relaxed, weak, and ſickly, are moſt liable to the malignant angina; adults, men, the healthy, and robuſt, are moſt ſubject to the inflammatory.

The malignant ſpecies is moſt common in autumn, and is highly contagious. The inflammatory uſually appears in the ſpring, and is never contagious. Both of them begin with ſhivering; but the malignant is more commonly attended with ſickneſs, vomiting, purging, and acute pain of the head, than the inflammatory. In the former the pulſe is quick, weak, unequal, and fluttering; ſometimes heavy and undoſe. In the latter it is fre-

frequent, ſtrong, full, and hard. The malignant is attended with but little pain; the inflammatory with very acute pain. The malignant ſort is always attended with proſtration of ſtrength, dejection of ſpirits, perpetual anxiety, ſighing, and great oppreſſion at the præcordia, with dull, heavy, watery eyes. But whenever ſloughs appear, eſpecially if they are accompanied with a purple or eryſipelatous eruption upon the ſkin, there can then be no doubt concerning the true nature of the diſeaſe, and all ſuſpicion of inflammatory angina muſt vaniſh.

There is but one other ſpecies of angina, we are told, from which this diſeaſe requires any diſtinction, and that is, the croup, angina infantium, or ſuffocatio ſtridula. A ſmall degree of attention to the ſeveral diviſions of that diſtemper, as made by the beſt writers, will ſhew that in reſpect to many of the caſes there can be no diſtinction, becauſe in reality there is no difference.

The ſpaſmodic and inflammatory ſpecies of croup, are diſtinguiſhed from this diſeaſe in the ſame manner as inflammatory angina; but with reſpect to the putrid ſpecies of croup, as it is attended with the very ſymptoms of malignant

lignant angina; as diffections after death prove the trachea to be in it affected in the fame manner as in the malignant angina; as the writings of Huxham, and the experience of other phyficians affure us, that the ftridulous voice is a common attendant on malignant angina; and, as all authors agree, that the putrid fuffocatio ftridula is increafed by the fame circumftances, and cured by the fame remedies, there cannot be ftronger reafons, our author remarks, for arranging it among the varieties of malignant angina, and hence he propofes the following divifion of malignant angina; viz. into angina maligna tonfillaris, and angina maligna trachealis.

The firft of thefe comprehends all cafes where ulcerations are fpread over every part of the mouth and throat, when the larynx is not affected, which are marked by the ordinary fymptoms, and difcovered by infpecting the mouth and throat.

The fecond takes in all cafes where ulcers are formed in the larynx and bronchia, which are difcoverable by fharpnefs and fhrillnefs of the voice, increafed difficulty of refpiration, frequent cough, and expectoration of putrid mucus,

mucus, at the ſame time that the fauces are covered over with white ſloughs.

This, we are told, is a diſtinction of ſome importance, and deſerves attention, from its giving much aſſiſtance in forming a prognoſis of the event; as when ulcers have found their way into the trachea, a cure, our author obſerves, is very ſeldom to be expected.

After enumerating the various prediſpoſing, occaſional, and exciting cauſes of this diſorder, Doctor Johnſtone concludes, that, the proximate cauſe conſiſts in a putrid acrimony conveyed into the ſyſtem, and from which, he thinks, all the ſymptoms are eaſily explained, as ariſing from a debility of the nervous ſyſtem, and a diſſolved ſtate of the circulating fluids.

In the method of cure, our author obſerves one general indication to be kept in view, is, to correct the putreſcent tendency throughout the ſyſtem in general, and to ſtop the progreſs of putrefaction in particular parts.

The different remedies recommended by authors, are here particularly enumerated, and to each, Doctor Johnſtone ſubjoins his own opinion.

Bleed-

Bleeding, our author obſerves, has been recommended in this diſeaſe by ſome writers; but he coincides entirely with Dr. Fothergill, in condemning the practice; as inſtead of mitigating any of the ſymptoms, it uniformly tends to render them worſe.

Purging, like every other evacuations, which diminiſh much the patient's ſtrength, always, we are told, does harm, and ought to be ſtrictly guarded againſt. To obviate coſtiveneſs, ripe fruits and occaſional glyſters of the antiſeptic kind, are recommended in preference to purgatives.

When nauſea is very urgent in the beginning of the diſeaſe, a gentle emetic is then recommended both for emptying the ſtomach, and for exciting a diaphoreſis.

Bliſters, notwithſtanding the ſeptic nature of cantharides, we are told, have been found uſeful in this complaint, by raiſing the pulſe, and ſupporting the vis vita. They are often applied with advantage to the throat itſelf.

Whenever nitre has been much employed in the fever attending the malignant angina, it has manifeſtly increaſed the heat and all the

the putrid ſymptoms. This might naturally be expected, our author remarks, in a fever attended with great depreſſion of the nervous and circulating powers, from a remedy which diminiſhes, inſtead of adding to the ſtrength of thoſe powers.

A dependence upon ſpiritus Mindereri has alſo, we are told, had bad conſequences, when the tenuity of the blood was in any degree conſiderable.

Fixed air, as a corrector of putreſcency, is recommended upon the authority of different practitioners.

Although mercury has been propoſed by ſome American phyſicians, in this diſorder, yet, our author, thinks the practice exceedingly hazardous, from the known evacuating powers of mercury: every evacuation in the malignant ſore throat, when carried to any extent, always, he obſerves, proves prejudicial.

The vegetable, *mineral*, and *dulcified acids* are all recommended in this diſorder; particularly from their antiſeptic powers. But they cannot, we are told, be given with freedom to infants at the breaſt, becauſe they coagulate the milk,

milk, and ſo tend to produce diſorders of the bowels.

Pulvis contrayervæ compoſitus, in ſome circumſtances of diarrhœa, we are told, may poſſibly be uſed with propriety; but, in other reſpects, it is a remedy without any other recommendation than that of cuſtom and faſhion.

Confectio cardiaca, together with wine and other cordials, is recommended, as tending to make the pulſe fuller and ſtronger, and for removing anxiety and leſſening ſickneſs. Wine however, is ſaid, to be more effectual than any of the others.

Myrrh and *camphor*, are both recommended as powerful antiſeptics; the former, we are told, although commonly preſcribed only in gargles, yet may be uſed with much propriety internally.

The efficacy of Peruvian bark, in this diſeaſe, has, we are told, ſurpaſſed the healing powers, experienced from it in every other inſtance. Thoſe who have tried it moſt in this complaint, beſt knowing how abſolutely it ſubdues the diſeaſe, which is more certainly cured by the early application of this remedy, than

than any diſeaſe, of equal conſequence, by any means whatever. It here evidently acts as an antiſeptic and tonic; it corrects putreſcency when it is begun, and it reſiſts the proceſs of putrefaction, by repairing the forces of nature, and by giving that vigour to the nervous ſyſtem which enables it to oppoſe and overcome the diſeaſe.

As it has been found inconvenient to adminiſter the bark in intermittent and remittent fevers, at any time but during the intervals of paroxyſms; ſo it has been queſtioned by ſome, whether we ought not to wait for a remiſſion in the fever attending the malignant ſore throat before we give the bark; but our author is clearly of opinion, that this cautious mode of proceeding is by no means neceſſary, no inconvenience having ever, he ſays, been obſerved to accompany or follow the uſe of Peruvian bark, at the very height of the fever attending this ſore throat; nay, we ought, he thinks, to give it more frequently and in larger quantities, in proportion to the height of the fever.

As proper additions to Peruvian bark he recommends, decoctions or extracts of caſca-

rilla bark, and of lignum Campechenſe, eſpecially when there appears any propenſity to diarrhœa.

By a proper combination and application of theſe various remedies, in the method here particularly pointed out by our author, practitioners will ſeldom fail, we are told, to remove the diſorder, excepting in thoſe inſtances where the trachea is affected; which not only require ſome variety in the mode of treatment, but are in reality much more dangerous than where the mouth and tonſils are only affected.

Doctor Johnſtone now proceeds to the more particular conſideration of the *angina maligna trachealis*; after enumerating the opinions of all the moſt eminent authors on this diſorder, and having given a diagnoſis, between the ſpaſmodic, inflammatory, and malignant ſpecies of it, he then proceeds to the ſpecific treatment or method of cure peculiar to the latter.

Whenever the larynx and trachea become the ſeat of malignant angina, the whole method of cure directed for its more uſual form, muſt then, we are told, be applied with unre-

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unremitting aſſiduity, though we are forbid to indulge the ſame pleaſing hopes of ſucceſs from the application of it.

The air of the patient's chamber ſhould be well impregnated with the ſteams of vinegar, myrrh, and honey, which ought to be inceſſantly riſing at his bed-ſide and he ſhould be directed to hold his mouth directly over the veſſel, or elſe the ſteams muſt be conveyed immediately into the mouth by means of a funnel. Inſtead of common vinegar, acetum ſciliticum has ſometimes been directed to be uſed for ſteaming, and apparently with effect in promoting expectoration.

Expectoration is alſo to be promoted by all other probable means. To vomit the patient now and then with oxymel of ſquills, anſwers this purpoſe, and forwards, we are told, the ſeparation of the ſloughs; and ſmaller dozes of oxymel of ſquills with gum ammoniac or aſſafœtida may afterwards be uſed to keep up the ſame excretion.

Aſſafœtida is here much recommended; and after a little uſe, even children come to take it, we are told, eaſier than gum ammoniac. Whilſt the patient is taking the Peruvian bark, the

the principal remedy to be depended on, a large ſpoonful or two of a ſtrong ſolution of aſſafœtida is directed to be given between doſes. When the caſe is alarming, or the patient obſtinately refuſes to take it by the mouth, it may then be given in a glyſter along with the bark.

In ſuch caſes, particularly with infants, when medicines are rejected, whilſt the danger is extreme, *antiſeptic baths* are directed; to be prepared by boiling Peruvian bark, chamomile flowers, or myrrh, in a ſufficient quantity of water, acidulated with a ſmall proportion of vinegar.

Bliſters to the throat, back, or neck, are alſo recommended; and likewiſe poultices, compoſed of garlic, to the feet; which not only act as antiſeptics, but tend to raiſe the pulſe, and to render the breathing eaſy and regular.

If, notwithſtanding all theſe attempts, the difficulty of breathing ſhould increaſe, where the throat is clear from ſloughs, if the pulſe be good, and the ſymptoms of debility not remarkable, as circumſtances are ſometimes apt to deceive us, inflammation may then be ſuſpected, and bleeding may very properly be tried;

tried; for in this, as in every other dangerous diſeaſe, our author concludes, "ſatius eſt "anceps remedium experiri quam nullum."

V.

An Account of the Scarlet Fever and Sore-Throat, or Scarlatina Anginoſa; particularly as it appeared at Birmingham, in the year 1778. *By* William Withering, *M. D.* 8*vo.* London.

THE diſeaſe here deſcribed made its appearance, we are told, at Birmingham and the neighbouring villages, about the middle of May, 1778. It continued in all its force and frequency to the end of October, varying, however, in ſome of its ſymptoms as the air grew colder. In the beginning of November it was rarely met with; but towards the middle of that month, when the air became warmer, it increaſed again, and in ſome meaſure reſumed thoſe appearances it poſſeſſed in the ſummer months, but which it had loſt during the cold winds in October.

It affected children more than adults; but ſeldom occured in the former under two years of age; or in the latter, when once they had paſſed their fiftieth year.

The very minute hiſtory of the diſeaſe as here exhibited by our author, we cannot pretend to detail; the more characteriſtic ſymptoms, however, ſhall be enumerated: we ſhall then give ſome account of his obſervations on the diagnoſis, and conclude with the method of cure.

With various general ſymptoms of fever, the patient at firſt complains of a dejection of ſpirits, a ſlight ſoreneſs, or rather ſtiffneſs in the neck, with a ſenſe of ſtraitneſs in the muſcles of the neck and ſhoulders, as if they were bound with cords.

The ſecond day of the fever this ſoreneſs in the throat increaſes, and the patients find a difficulty in ſwallowing, but the difficulty ſeems leſs occaſioned by the pain excited in the attempt, or by the ſtraitneſs of the paſſage, than by an inability to throw the neceſſary muſcles in action. The ſkin feels hot and dry, but not hard; and the patients experience frequent, ſmall, pungent pains, as if touched with the point of a needle. The breath is hot and burning to the lips, and thirſt makes them wiſh to drink, but the tendency to ſickneſs and the exertions neceſſary in deglutition are ſo unpleaſant, that they ſel-

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dom care to drink much at a time. They have much uneaſineſs alſo from want of reſt during the night.

In the morning of the third day, the face, neck, and breaſt appear redder than uſual; in a few hours this redneſs becomes univerſal, and increaſes to ſuch a degree of intenſity, that the face, body, and limbs reſemble a boiled lobſter in colour, and are evidently ſwollen. Upon preſſure the redneſs vaniſhes, but ſoon returns again. The ſkin is ſmooth to the touch, nor is there the leaſt appearance of pimples or puſtules. The eyes and noſtrils partake more or leſs of the general redneſs; and in proportion to the intenſity of this colour in the eyes, the tendency to delirium prevails

Things continue in nearly this ſtate for two or three days longer, when the intenſe ſcarlet gradually abates, a brown colour ſucceeds, and the ſkin becoming rough, peels off in ſmall ſcales. The tumefaction ſubſides at the ſame time, and the patients gradually recover their ſtrength and appetite.

During the whole courſe of the diſeaſe, the pulſe is quick, ſmall, and uncommonly fee-

ble; the urine ſmall in quantity; the ſub-maxillary glands ſomewhat enlarged and painful to the touch. The velum pendulum palati, the uvula, the tonſils, and gullet, as far as the eye can reach, partake of the general redneſs and tumefaction; but although collections of thick mucus, greatly reſembling the ſpecks, or ſloughs, in the putrid ſore throat, ſometimes occur, yet theſe are eaſily waſhed off, and real ulcerations of theſe parts were never obſerved.

Theſe are the moſt uſual appearances of this diſorder; but it too frequently, we are told, aſſumes a much more fatal form. In ſome children the delirium commences in a few hours after the firſt attack; the ſkin is intenſely hot; the ſcarlet colour appears on the firſt or ſecond day, and they die very early on the third. Others again, who ſurvive this rapid termination, inſtead of recovering as is uſual, about the time the ſkin begins to get its natural colour, fall into a kind of lingering, and die at laſt in the courſe of ſix or eight weeks.

In adults, circular livid ſpots, we are told, were frequently obſerved about the breaſt, knees, and elbows; alſo large blotches of red, and others of white intermixed, and often changing places.

In the month of October when the air became colder, the scarlet colour of the skin was both less frequent, and less permanent. Many patients had no appearance of it at all, whilst others, especially adults, had a few minute, red pimples, crowned with white pellucid heads. The inside of the throat was considerably tumefied, its colour a dull red, sometimes tending to a livid. The pulse beat in general 130 or 140 strokes in a minute; was small, but hard, and sometimes sufficiently so to justify the opening of a vein; and the blood thus taken away, in every instance when cool, appeared sizy, and the whole crassamentum firm.

Happy would it be, our author observes, if the baneful influence of this disorder terminated with the febrile symptoms. But in ten or fifteen days from the cessation of the fever, and when a complete recovery might be expected, another train of symptoms occur, which at last frequently terminate fatally. The patients, after a few days amendment, feel a something that prevents their farther approach to health; an unaccountable languor and debility prevails, a stiffness in the limbs; an accelerated pulse, disturbed sleep, disrelish to food,

food, and a fcarcity of urine. Thefe fymptoms, we are told, are foon fucceeded by fwellings of a real dropfical nature, forming fometimes an anafarca, and on other occafions an afcites.

Dr. Withering, after examining the accounts given of this difeafe by different authors, proceeds to the diagnofis. It may be diftinguifhed, he obferves, from the petechial fever, by the eruption in the latter appearing feldom before the fourth day, by the regularity and diftinctnefs of the fpots, and by its principally occupying the neck, the back, and the loins. On the other hand in the fcarlet fever, the eruption generally appears about the third day; confifts either of broad blotches, or elfe one continued rednefs, which fpreads over the face and the whole body.

In the fever called *purpura*, the puftules are prominent, keep their colour under preffure, and never appear early in the difeafe; whereas in the fcarlet fever, the eruption appears more early, is not prominent, but perfectly fmooth to the touch, and becomes quite white under preffure.

Although the purple fever and fcarlatina may be connected by fome general caufe, yet our

our author takes occaſion to obſerve, that they cannot be mere modifications of the ſame eruption; for examples occurs, he ſays, of the ſame perſon being firſt ſeized with one of theſe diſorders, and afterwards with the other; but he never met with an inſtance of the ſame perſon having the ſcarlet fever twice; and he believes it to be as great an improbability as a repetition of the ſmall-pox.

This diſorder is particularly diſtinguiſhed from the meaſles, we are told, by the want of that cough, watery eye, and running at the noſe, which are known to be the predominant ſymptoms in the early ſtate of the meaſles, but are never known to exiſt in the ſcarlatina.

From the eryſipelas this diſeaſe is diſtinguiſhable, by the limited ſeat of the former, together with its not being contagious.

The ulcerated ſore throat, however, is more difficult to diſtinguiſh from this diſeaſe than any other; and yet the diſtinction is a matter of the greateſt importance, as the method of treatment, we are told, ought to be extremely different.—But although in a number of circumſtances, theſe two diſeaſes bear a very great reſemblance, yet, with a little attention, the one may in general be diſtinguiſhed from the other.

other. From Dr. Fothergill's account of the *Sore Throat attended with Ulcers*, our author has made out the following characteriftical circumftances of the two difeafes, contrafted to one another.

Scarlatina Anginofa.	Angina Gangrenofa.
Seafon. . Summer . . Autumn.	*Seafon.* . Spring . . Winter.
Air. . Hot . . Dry.	*Air.* . Warm . . Moift.
Places. High . . Dry . . . Gravelly.	*Places.* Clofe. . Low . . Damp. . Marfhy.
Subjects. Vigorous. Both fexes alike. . Robuft in moft danger	*Subjects.* Delicate . . Women and female Children. Robuft adults not in danger.
Skin. Full fcarlet . . . . fmooth . . If pimply, the pimples white at the top . . Always dry and hot.	*Skin.* Red tinge . . pimply. . The pimples redder than the Interftices . . bedewed with fweat towards morning.
Eyes. Shining, equable, intenfe rednefs, rarely watery.	*Eyes.* Inflamed and watery, or funk and dead.
Throat. In fummer, tonfils, &c. little tumefied ; no flough . . In autumn, more fwelled. Integuments feparating . . Sloughs white.	*Throat.* Tonfils, &c. confiderably fwelled and ulcerated . . . Sloughs dark brown.

Breath.

Breath. Very hot, but not fœtid.	*Breath.* Offenſive to the patients and aſſiſtants.
Voice. In ſummer, natural	*Voice.* Flat and Rattling.
Bowels. Regular at the acceſſion.	*Bowels.* . Purging at the acceſſion.
Blood. Buffy. . Firm.	*Blood.* . Florid . . Tender.
Termination. The 3d, 5th, 8th, or 11th day.	*Termination.* No ſtated period.
Nature. Inflammatory.	*Nature.* Putrid.

It is not pretended, our author remarks, that all the above contraſted ſymptoms will be met with in every caſe. It is enough, he obſerves, that ſome of them appear, and that if conjoined, with the conſideration of the prevailing conſtitution, they enable us to direct that mode of treatment which will moſt contribute to the relief of the ſick.

Before proceeding to the different articles of cure, our author, begs the attention of the reader to the following principles. As they did not, derive their origin from any pre-conceived theory, nor from any pre-diſpoſition to particular opinions, butfrom actual obſervation, he therefore offers them as matters of fact.

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1. He affirms that the immediate cauſe of this diſeaſe is a poiſon of a peculiar kind, communicable by contagion.

2. That this poiſon firſt takes poſſeſſion of the mucous membrane, lining the fauces and the noſe; and either by its action upon the ſecretory glands, or upon the mucus itſelf, aſſimilates that mucus to its own nature.

3. That it is from this beginning, and from this only, that it ſpreads to the ſtomach &c. and at length acts upon the ſyſtem at large.

4. That its firſt action upon the nerves, is of a ſedative or debilitating nature.

5. That in conſequence of certain laws of the nervous ſyſtem, when the debilitating effects operate upon the ſenſorium commune, a reaction takes place; and that this reaction, is cæteris paribus, proportioned to the debilitating power.

6. That, in conſequence of this re-action of the nervous ſyſtem, the vibratory motion of the capillary blood-veſſels dependent thereon is greatly increaſed; an unuſually large quantity of blood is accumulated in thoſe veſſels; the heart and large blood-veſſels are deprived

of

of their cuſtomary proportion; and hence, though ſtimulated to more frequent contraction, the pulſe muſt neceſſarily be feeble.

7. That as violent exertions are followed by debility, upon the ceſſation of the fever, the capillary veſſels, which had acted with ſuch unuſual violence, are left in a ſtate of extreme debility, and are long in recovering their tone; hence it is that ſo many patients afterwards become dropſical.

Our author, now proceeds to the conſideration of the different remedies, which either are at preſent in common uſe, or have been recommended as proper in this diſeaſe.

Blood-letting.—This remedy has been recommended by authors, but ſuch was the ſtate of the pulſe in this diſorder, at leaſt during the ſummer months, that it was not in any inſtance thought adviſeable to take away blood. In ſome caſes, indeed, where the fiery redneſs of the eyes ſeemed to demand the uſe of leeches, they were had recourſe to, but never with any advantage. In the harveſt months, when the pulſe was more firm, and when ſuffocation ſeemed to be threatened from the ſwelling in the fauces, blood letting was ſometimes adviſed, but ſtill with leſs advan-

tage

than one would have expected in almost any other situation.

Vomitting.—This, our author observes, seems to be the remedy of nature, and he is surprised how it should have been omitted by several authors, who have gone before him. Vomiting, he says, most amply fulfils the indications arising both from a consideration of the cause and of the effects; and a liberal use of the remedy he holds forth as the true foundation for successful practice, in scarlet fever and sore throat.—His common form of emetic is a combination of tartar emetic and ipecacuanha, given in pretty smart dozes; and these are to be repeated at least once in forty-eight hours; and in the worst cases so often as twice in twenty-four hours.

Purging.—The action of purgatives is considered by our author, as altogether repugnant to the curative indications in this disease; for the poison, as formerly remarked, being received into the system by the fauces, the operation of a purge, instead of discharging it, can only promote its diffusion along the alimentary canal; and in fact, we are told, that when even a spontaneous purging supervenes in this disease, the patients sink so amazingly fast;

faſt, that it is not within the reach of art to ſupport them.

Sudorifics. Cordials. Alexipharmics.—None of theſe remedies were found beneficial. With reſpect to cordials, our author obſerves, that although they ſeem to be indicated by the great loſs of ſtrength and feeble pulſe, yet the certain conſequence of their uſe always was, an increaſe of reſtleſſneſs, of the delirium, and of the heat.

Diuretics—Theſe were found very beneficial. The *vegetable fixed alkali* is recommended as the moſt proper article of this kind: a dram or two may be eaſily ſwallowed every twenty-four hours, by giving a ſmall quantity in every thing the patient drinks.

Peruvian bark.—No medicine, we are told, ever had a fairer trial in any diſeaſe than the Peruvian bark had in this epidemic; for the feeble pulſe, great proſtration of ſtrength, with here and there a livid ſpot, were thought to be ſuch undeniable evidences of a putrid tendency, that the bark was poured down not with a ſparing hand. But this was only at firſt, for theſe livid ſpots, and the ſloughs in the throat being found to be the effects of inflammation inſtead of putrefac-tion,

tion, and the bark inſtead of diminiſhing, rather increaſing theſe ſymptoms, it was at laſt entirely laid aſide.

Upon the ſame principles that bark was preſcribed, *fixable* air was at firſt likewiſe adviſed, but with no evident effects, either one way or another.—Dulcified acids were alſo had recourſe to, but with no advantage.

Opiates, although recommended by ſome authors, for the removal of inquietude and watchfulneſs, yet in this epidemic, inſtead of affecting theſe purpoſes, always increaſed the diſtreſs of the patient.

Bliſters.—In the ſummer appearance of the diſeaſe, bliſters were univerſally detrimental; they never failed to haſten the delirium, and if the caſe was of the worſt kind, they too often confirmed its fatal tendency.—In the autumnal ſeaſon, when the inflammation was leſs generally diffuſed through the body, they were leſs detrimental, but did not even here produce any beneficial effects.

Injected gargles of contrayerva decoction, ſweetened with oxymel of ſquills, &c. were found very beneficial in bringing away large quantities of viſcid ropy ſtuff from the fauces.

The

The immersion of the feet and legs in warm water, although it did no harm, yet did not either procure sleep, or abate the delirium, as it frequently does in other kinds of fever.

As in summer it was found difficult to keep the patient's sufficiently cool, they were ordered to lie upon a mattress, instead of a feather-bed; a free circulation of air was kept up, and where the patient's strength would admit of it, they were ordered frequently out of doors. Animal food and fermented liquors were denied them, and nothing allowed but tea, coffee, chocolate, milk and water, gruel, barley water, and such articles.

With respect to the dropsical disorder which so frequently succeeds to this complaint, it was never observed, our author remarks, when the preceding symptoms had been properly treated.

When called upon to patients in the dropsical state, our author commences his practice by a dose of calomel at night, and a purgative in the morning.—When a febrile pulse attended the other symptoms, emetics were useful, as well the saline draughts and other neutral salts.—When great debility, comatose, or peripneumonic symptoms occurred, blisters were

found very ſerviceable; but when dropſical ſymptoms were the principal cauſe of complaint, ſmall doſes of rhubarb and calomel are adviſed; recourſe was alſo had to diluted ſolutions of fixed alkalies, ſquills, Seltzer waters, and other diuretics.

When the urine flows freely, ſteel, and other tonics, are recommended; together with gentle exerciſe, high-ſeaſoned foods, wine, and the wearing of flannel in contact with the ſkin.

Our author concludes his eſſay with an enumeration of ſeveral caſes, treated according to the principles laid down in the preceding part of this publication. The ſucceſsful termination of theſe caſes demonſtrates the propriety of the practice which he has recommended.

VI. Mathaei

VI.

Mathaei Francifci Alix. *Medicinæ et Chirurgiæ Doctoris, &c. Obfervata Chirurgica. Fafcicul.* III *et* IV. 8*vo.* Francafurti.

ON a former occafion we prefented our readers with various articles taken from preceding parts of the work before us; two other fafciculi have fince been publifhed, from which we fhall extract an account of fuch articles as appear to be of moft confequence.

Infans fex annorum, cujus brachium anterius figura morfus canis rabidi exhibebat, ejufque curatio.

Our author was called to a child, who about a fortnight before, had been bit in different parts of one of his arms by a dog; the wounds were at this time perfectly healed, but the marks left by the teeth of the dog were ftill very evident in the cicatrices which remained.

The child was now reftlefs, complained of thirft, but on drink being brought to him could not fwallow it; his pulfe was full, his fkin hot, his eyes fixed and confufed, he could not

 fleep,

ſleep, and as the ſight of other people was very diſagreeable to him he always endeavour-to keep himſelf concealed in dark obſcure places.

The child was blooded two different times, and bliſters being applied to the parts which had been bit, a ſuppuration was thereby induced and the diſcharge continued for a conſiderable time. Nitre and camphor were preſcribed, together with Plenk's mercurial ſolution; and in order to preſerve a lax ſtate of the abdomen, glyſters and gentle purgatives were at proper intervals adminiſtred.

By a due continution of this courſe, a com plete cure was obtained; and the bark, with Virginian ſnake-root, were afterwards exhibited, by way of preventing a return of the ſymptoms.

Cæſio novaculæ, qua vir quidam, ſibi abſcindebat, teſticulum cum ſcroto, et membro virili, ad hujus uſque originem.

We are here preſented with the hiſtory of a man, who in a fit of lunacy, deprived himſelf by means of a razor, of both teſtes, ſcrotum, and penis.

The

The hæmorrhage that enſued was not conſiderable, the man himſelf having got a ſufficient command of it by gentle preſſure; and a ſurgeon having been afterwards called in, the parts were eaſily cured.

The chief intention our author ſeems to have in view by relating this caſe, is to afford an additional proof to the many other already in record, of there being no neceſſity in the operation of caſtration, for a ligature on the ſpermatic veſſels.

Paralyſis extremorum et alia ſymptomata producta a vermibus lumbricis in ſtomacho, veſica urinaria et inteſtinis hærentibus, quibus etiam aſcarides accedebant.

A man, aged 55, complained of nauſea, vomiting, want of appetite, pains in all his joints, and a paralytic weakneſs in his different limbs. To theſe ſupervened, headach, coldneſs of the extremities, difficulty in paſſing his water, which was alſo frequently conſiderably tinged with blood, his pulſe was feeble, the ſkin dry, his face pale and of a yellowiſh hue, his breath fœtid; now and then he complained of pains in his bowels; he was coſtive,

tive, and a confiderable tenfion occurred in his abdomen.

An emetic being prefcribed, with a view to the ftomachic fymptoms, a number of worms, of the lumbricous kind, were thrown up; and as this gave reafon to fufpect worms to be the caufe of the diforder, gentle laxatives, toge-with anthelmintics were prefcribed. By thefe means the feveral fymptoms were foon removed, and the man returned to his ordinary way of life.

In the courfe of three or four week however, from this period, he was feized with a difficulty of making water, and found it impoffible with all his endeavours to get it accomplifhed. At laft after a violent effort, he perceived a long worm coming away from the urethra, and having pulled it out he got a large quantity of bloody urine eafily paffed.

Another courfe of anthelmintic medicines was again advifed, together with corroborants; and no farther returns of the complaints were obferved.

De urina ex umbilico profluente.

A woman, twenty years of age, and three months gone with child, was fuddenly feized with

with a retention of urine, from an inflammatory affection about the neck of the bladder.

The patient having been improperly treated, did not get any urine paſſed for the ſpace of eight days, during which period ſhe ſuffered the moſt ſevere pains. About this time a ſwelling occured at the umbilicus, which breaking the following day, a conſiderable quantity of urine was by ſlow degrees diſcharged.

Our author being now called in, endeavoured firſt to empty the bladder by means of a catheter; this being done, and a large quantity of urine, mixed with pus, being diſcharged, the patient was put upon a courſe of bark and other corroborants; and injections, of decoctions of bark, mixed with mel roſarum, were thrown into the bladder, with a view to deterge and heal ſuch ulcers as might remain after the collections of matter.

By a continuation of this courſe, and care being at the ſame time taken, by means of a frequent uſe of the catheter, to prevent the urine from collecting in any conſiderable quantity, a complete cure was at laſt obtained, by the ſore at the umbilicus healing up, at the ſame time that the urine came to be properly diſcharged from the uretha.

VII.

Medical Cafes felected from the Records of the public Difpenfary at Edinburgh, with Remarks and Obfervations. Being the Subftance of Cafe Lectures delivered during the Years 1776-7. *By* Andrew Duncan, *M. D. Fellow of the Royal College of Phyficians, &c. 8vo.* Edinburgh.

IN the greater part of felections of medical cafes, the object of the compilers feems to have been, to exhibit faithful hiftories of affections diftinguifhed by their fingularity. But in the volume before us, moft of the cafes which are recorded have no title to fuch a character. Here it has been the principal aim of the author, to eftablifh fome general doctrines which are in a great meafure peculiar to himfelf; and to point out the advantages which may be derived from practices not commonly employed. When thefe are the objects which he had in view, his work will not be the lefs ufeful that he has chofen as the foundation of his obfervations, the cafes of patients fubjected to difeafes which are by no means uncommon occurrences. But how far the ob-fervations

ſervations which he has offered are ſufficient, either for eſtabliſhing the propriety of the practice which he adopted, or for demonſtrating the truth of the doctrine which he ſupports, we will not take upon us to determine.

It is probable, that every candid and judicious reader will by no means form the ſame ſentiments with regard to all the caſes which are here treated. And there are ſome of our author's doctrines, which differ ſo widely from the almoſt univerſally received opinions of medical writers, that they will not probably be readily or precipitately adopted. If, however, he has been able to render them in any degree probable, by deducing arguments from his own reading and obſervation, theſe may, perhaps, have the effect of turning the attention of other practitioners to future facts, by which alone they will either be moſt certainly eſtabliſhed, or moſt effectually refuted.

A proper analyſis of every ſubject which is treated of in a miſcellaneous volume, would much exceed the neceſſary limits in a publication of this nature. We can now, therefore, propoſe to preſent our readers with a particular

ac-

account of a few only of the articles which are contained in this publication.

The ſubject of the firſt article is a caſe of epilepſy. In the remarks which are given on the hiſtory of this caſe, the author endeavours to point out thoſe particulars by which, he thinks, that epileptic affections may be moſt certainly diſtinguiſhed from thoſe diſeaſes which moſt nearly reſemble them, and which prove the preſent caſe to be an inſtance of genuine epilepſy. With this view, the circumſtances, on which he puts the chief dependance, are the age and ſex of the patient, the nature and appearance of the convulſive agitations, the foaming of the mouth, but above all, the total abolition of the external and internal ſenſes which occur during the paroxyſms. While the former particulars give a ſtrong preſumption of epilepſy, he conſiders theſe laſt circumſtances, as affording a more certain ground for diſtinguiſhing this affection from hyſteria, than the diſorder of the alimentary canal, and the ſenſe of a ball riſing to the throat which have been conſidered as pathognomonic ſymptoms of the latter diſeaſe.

Hav-

Having on theſe grounds pronounced the diſeaſe of this patient to be epilepſy, he next proceeds to conſider how far the cauſe from which it has originated, in the preſent inſtance, can be aſcertained. And here the circumſtances of this patient, who had lived conſtantly in the houſe with his mother, a woman long ſubjected to affections of a ſimilar nature, and who had always ſlept in the ſame bed with her, naturally lead our author to make ſome remarks on the opinions which have been held concerning the hereditary and infectious nature of this diſeaſe. Although he readily allows that epilepſy is an hereditary afaffection yet he concludes that this patient's diſeaſe did not depend upon that cauſe, from the diſeaſe being induced in the mother by an accident only which happened long poſterior to the birth of this ſon. The ſuppoſition that epilepſy can be communicated from contagion by contact is, in our author's opinion, ſupported by no facts, and repugnant to every well-founded idea reſpecting the nature of the diſeaſe. But he contends that in this, as well as in ſome affections nearly ſimilar, the influence of the impreſſion made by being frequently a witneſs of fits, is a caſe which in certain habits will be ſufficient to induce epilepſy. To this cauſe

caufe he refers the prefent inftance; and he adds, that many other cafes have occured to him, where epilepfy could manifeftly be traced to fuch an origin.

That many inftances of epilepfy are totally incurable by any treatment with which medical practitioners are yet acquainted, is not to be denied. While, however, our author confiders it to be a difeafe which, on fome occafions at leaft, does admit of a cure, he is inclined to think that fuch inftances as the prefent afford a better chance of fuccefsful treatment than moft others. Notwithftanding therefore the obftinacy of this affection, even in its moft flight form, he ventured to deliver it as his opinion, that in this inftance, the epilepfy might at leaft be alleviated, if not completely removed.

The cure of epilepfy, according to our author, is chiefly to be expected on one of two principles; either by the removal of fuch caufes as ferve to excite the fits, or by inducing fuch a change on the ftate of the nervous power, that the exciting caufe will ceafe to have its former effect. It was with the firft of thefe intentions, that this patient was put upon the ufe of the pilulæ cæruleæ. The only pharmaco-

pœa,

pœa, into which this article, as far as we can obſerve, has a place, is that of the Edinburgh college publiſhed in 1774. And when we conſider that it has neither been introduced into the Pharmacopœa Suecica, Diſpenſatorium Brunſvicenſe, nor other works of a ſimilar nature, which have been publiſhed ſince that date, we may preſume that it is a remedy which is not at preſent in very general uſe. The hiſtory of a caſe, therefore, in which it ſeems to have been productive of the moſt ſalutary effects, may ſerve to recommend it to more general employment.

The pilulæ ceruleæ as they have been called, conſiſt of the cuprum ammoniacum, united with bread intended merely to give a proper form. It is therefore on the former that the activity of the medicine muſt ſolely depend. And in this preparation of copper that metal is reduced to a ſaline ſtate by the ſpirit of ſal ammoniac. It is well known that many of thoſe ſaline ſubſtances which have copper for their baſis are of ſuch activity as to render the internal uſe of them by no means ſafe. But, according to our author, from the prudent adminiſtration of this medicine very conſiderable effects, as a tonic, may be obtained, without

any

any inconvenience resulting from its influence as a stimulant. For this purpose, the present patient began the use of it by taking every evening one of the pilulæ ceruleæ, containing half a grain of the cuprum ammoniaci. Although this had at first the effect of exciting considerable sickness at stomach, yet in a short time it was borne without any inconvenience: after which the quantity was gradually encreased, as the state of his stomach would admit of it.

On the use of this medicine he continued for the space of two months. From the time that he began this course his fits became less frequent, and from a long interval without any threatening of attack, although he was frequently exposed to accidents which formerly induced fits, there was reason to believe that the disease was completely overcome. In this situation he was dismissed from farther attendance at the Dispensary. Our author, therefore, considers this case as affording an example of the cure of epilepsy by means of the cuprum ammoniacum. And he tells us, that this is not the only instance in which he has found it to be attended with manifestly good consequences in such affections. He is very far, how-

however, from reprefenting it as an infallible remedy. And when he tells us, that in fome inftances he has employed it without any benefit, this ought to induce practitioners to confider it as meriting a fair trial in every cafe, where other medicines are found ineffectual; although in many of thefe it fhould not be attended with fuccefs.

If the firft article of this work affords an example of the fuccefsful cure of an affection, in its nature obftinate, by means of a remedy not generally employed; the laft furnifhes us with an example of the efficacy of a medicine which, although recommended by the earlieft medical writers, has been long and too much neglected. Although the root of the fern had been recommended by Diofcorides, Galen, and others, for expelling from the inteftinal canal that worm which has the name of tænia, yet its influence feems to have been fo little known, that in the prefent age it feems to have been principally, if not only exhibited by thofe who made a fecret of their mode of practice. And very lately, when an account of the method of treatment employed by Madame Nouffer, after being fubjected to trial under the infpection of fome of the moft eminent phyficians

in Paris, was made public by order of the French King; it appeared that her ſucceſs, according to her own account at leaſt, principally depended on the powder of the male fern; the Polypodium Filix Mas of Linnæus.

In the 25th article of the preſent publication, we are preſented with the caſe of a woman, who diſcharged every day, by the anus, numerous fragments of a tænia of different ſizes. She was affected alſo with many other ſymptoms, which, in all probability, were to be aſcribed to that part of this animal which ſtill continued in the alimentary canal. Before ſhe applied for aſſiſtance at the Edinburgh Diſpenſary in September, 1777, ſhe had been obſerved to diſcharge portions of this kind of worm for the ſpace of thirty years.

During that period, many different medicines had been uſed, from the uſe of ſome of which very large portions of the tænia had been brought away. But ſhe was never by this means entirely freed from her ſymptoms; and after a very ſhort interval, more fragments were again obſerved to come away. As the means before employed had been ineffectual in producing a radical cure, when ſhe came under

under the care of Dr. Duncan at the Difpenfary, he refolved to put her upon the ufe of Madame Nouffer's medicines. By his direction fhe took, early in the morning, a dram of the powder of the root of the male fern. This was fucceeded, after an interval of four hours, by the ufe of a purgative, confifting of an ounce and a half of cream of tartar, together with three grains of gamboge, and as much calomel, formed into an electary with fimple fyrup.

From the ufe of thefe medicines, feveral larger fragments, which, taken altogether, were about fifty inches in length, were brought away. And the day following, fome fmaller fragments were difcharged; but, contrary to what had formerly been the cafe, they came off in a dead ftate. The confequence of this difcharge was, that fhe was foon freed from the fymptoms to which fhe had been before fubjected; and although the fame medicines were afterwards repeated, no more fragments of the worm could be difcovered. As fhe has fince continued free from any return of her complaint for the fpace of many months, there is great reafon to hope, that from this practice

 a com-

a complete and radical cure has been obtained.

If in the firft and laft articles of this work, we have examples of practices which are not very common; fo in the obfervations on many cafes, particular doctrines are attempted to be eftablifhed which lead to modes of cure, at leaft in fome degree different from what are commonly followed. But in no inftance is this more remarkable than in the 18th article, the fubject of which is a cafe of venereal gonorrhœa. In his obfervations on this cafe, he endeavours, by many arguments to prove, that gonorrhœa depends on an infectious matter, in its nature effentially different from that which produces fyphilis. But before attempting to eftablifh this doctrine, he firft endeavours to refute thofe which have chiefly been ufed in fupport of a contrary opinion.

As a proof that gonorrhœa and fyphilis depend on precifely the fame infectious matter, it is urged, that both difeafes are very generally the confequences of the fame remote caufe, that is, communication with an infected female; that from a fingle inftance of expofure to infection a patient will be fubjected

to

to both diseases; that from the same female, and at the same time, one will be infected with syphilis, and another with gonorrhœa; and lastly, that an affection beginning as gonorrhœa, will, in consequence of improper treatment, be converted into syphilis.

From the consideration of many circumstances, our author endeavours to shew, that the sameness of the remote cause in both diseases proves nothing more than that both are the effect of contact, while, at the same time, they are principally seated in the genital organs. From considering the condition of those by whom venereal infection is, in general, given, it can, he thinks, by no means seem strange that both infections should be communicated at the same time; whether they depend on one matter only, or on two different matters. He affirms that both gonorrhœa and syphilis may lie so long latent in the habit that it is often impossible to determine at what period infection has been contracted. Hence many of those instances in which it is suspected that, from the same female, one man has derived syphilis and another gonorrhœa, are founded entirely on mistaken observation. But even admitting that there are instances in which this

 cause,

is certainly the caſe, yet, it by no means follows, that both diſeaſes depend upon the ſame infectious matter. For it is by no means a rare occurrence to find a patient at once ſubjected to both diſeaſes; and there can be no difficulty in conceiving, that, according, to circumſtances, theſe affections may be communicated either ſeparately or conjoined. In anſwer to the fourth and laſt argument, which is, indeed, apparently the ſtrongeſt, our author replies, that thoſe ſymptoms which are in general ſuppoſed to indicate the converſion of gonorrhœa into ſyphilis, are not venereal; and that in all thoſe caſes where the diſeaſes have ſucceeded or ſupervened upon each other, the probability is, that the patient had actually been infected with both diſeaſes, although one of them may have continued latent for ſome time. In this manner, then, he endeavours to explain the facts, and to invalidate the arguments from which it has been generally concluded, that gonorrhœa and ſyphilis are merely different ſets of ſymptoms from the ſame infectious matter.

With the view of proving that gonorrhœa depends upon an infectious matter, which, in its nature, is eſſentially different from that giving ſyphilis, Dr. Duncan is of opinion, that argu-

arguments may be drawn from many different ſources; but particularly from attending to the introduction of the two affections into different countries; from the phenomena which the diſeaſes exhibit; and from the method of cure by which each is moſt readily overcome. Our author is of opinion, notwithſtanding the many ingenious arguments which, he obſerves, have been brought to prove the contrary by Mr. Sanches, that both ſyphilis and gonorrhœa were unknown in Europe till the diſcovery of America. And he affirms, that from attending to the hiſtory of thoſe affections when they firſt appeared in Europe, that the former had been diſtinctly obſerved ſeveral years before the latter was known.

This circumſtance, he farther adds, has been by no means peculiar to Europe; and in China in particular, ſyphilis prevailed for a very long period before gonorrhœa was known there. But of all inſtances, what he conſiders as the ſtrongeſt, is the caſe of the iſland of Otaheite, where, he tells us, that gonorrhœa is ſtill unknown, although ſyphilis has been very common among them ever ſince they were firſt viſited by European circumnavigators. From theſe facts then, he thinks it probable that a peculiar infectious matter is neceſſary for giv-

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ing each difeafe; and that the infection producing the one is incapable of giving rife to the other.

But if fome arguments in fupport of this opinion, be derived from the hiftory of the two difeafes upon their firft introduction into different countries, our author is of opinion, that reafons ftill more convincing are afforded from attending to the phænomena of the difeafes. Attention to the progrefs of the two difeafes fhews, that while fyphilis is an affection uniformly encreafing in violence, and, if it be not artificially removed, univerfally terminating in death, gonorrhœa is a difeafe, which, after running a certain courfe, has a tendency to a natural cure. Where we are certain of the origin of the infection, gonorrhœa and fyphilis are each as much the confequence of the application of a particular matter, as fmall-pox, or meafles. And when we know the matter applied, we can as certainly foretel the difeafe which will follow in the one cafe as in the other. And laftly, although in fome inftances the difeafes are combined, yet much more frequently each runs its courfe without the flighteft appearance of the other. But were the infectious matter the fame, Dr. Duncan

can contends, that in every inſtance where gonorrhœa exiſted, ſyphilis muſt of neceſſity follow. In every ſuch caſe, infectious matter is neceſſarily applied to an innumerable multitude of lymphatic abſorbents on the glans penis. Since this, however, is productive of no bad effect, it follows either that this matter is incapable of being abſorbed, or that although it be abſorbed it is innocent. But on either ſuppoſition it muſt be concluded, that the matter of gonorrhœa and ſyphilis, are eſſentially different. From attending then to the phenomena of the two diſeaſes, he thinks it manifeſtly appears, that there are numerous circumſtances inconſiſtent with the ſuppoſition of their depending on the ſame infectious matter.

Beſides theſe, our author derives ſtill a third ſet of arguments in ſupport of the hypotheſis which he has adopted from the method of cure peculiar to each diſeaſe. There can be no doubt, he obſerves, that the treatment ſerving to remove gonorrhœa, is, by no means fitted for the cure of ſyphilis; and that the treatment ſuited for the cure of ſyphilis is not calculated for the removal of gonorrhœa. Where the diſeaſes happen to be combined in the ſame patient, the cure of gonorrhœa is by

no means proportioned to the influence which mercury has in healing chancres, discussing buboes, or removing other syphilitic symptoms. Nay, gonorrhœa is often observed to be uninterrupted in its course, or even to increase in severity, during the use of mercury, which proves effectual in the cure of syphilis.

From all these circumstances taken together, Dr. Duncan concludes, that there is at least a high probability that gonorrhœa and syphilis depend each on a peculiar infectious matter. After having endeavoured to establish this opinion with respect to the nature of gonorrhœa, he next makes some remarks on the conclusions with respect to practice, which are to be drawn from this theory. At the very earliest stages, he thinks, that the disease may be overcome and discharged either by dissolving the mucus to which it adheres, or by encreasing the secretion of mucus. When the disease is farther advanced, he thinks that the treatment must be directed first to combat a state of inflammation, and then of atonia. The first of these ends is, he thinks, principally to be accomplished by evacuants, refrigerants, and antiphlogistic regimen; the second, by astringents and tonics. And in the case which gave

rise

rise to these observations it appears, that he employed as a tonic the Peruvian bark. Although he allows, that this is a remedy which has a tendency rather to aggravate inflammation than otherwise; yet he affirms, that under proper administration, and after the disease has made a certain progress, it will be found productive of the most beneficial consequences.

Besides the articles of which we have now given an analysis, upwards of twenty others are contained in the present volume; of which the limits of this publication will not admit of our giving any account. We may only conclude with observing, that this publication may be considered as furnishing a specimen of that kind of medical education, which the Dispensary at Edinburgh affords. And, however much readers may differ in their opinions with regard to the merit of this work, yet it must, on all hands be allowed, that if the great objects aimed at by a medical student, are, that he may learn by what symptoms diseases are most certainly to be known, and by what remedies they are most effectually to be removed, it is impossible to conceive any branch

branch of education better calculated for his purpose than careful attention to rational and judicious practice, when it is conjoined with a proper explanation of the intentions which the practitioner had in view, and a candid account of the effects which were to be attributed to the medicines employed.

VIII.

Remarks on that kind of Palsy of the Lower Limbs, which is frequently found to accompany a Curvature of the Spine, and is supposed to be caused by it: together with its Method of Cure. To which are added, Observations on the Necessity and Propriety of Amputation, in certain Cases, and under certain Circumstances. By Percival Pott, *F. R. S. and Surgeon to Bartholomew's Hospital. 8vo.* London.

THAT species of palsy in the lower extremities, which so universally accompanies a curvature of the spine, appears equally frequently, our author observes, in both sexes, and in all ages.

When

When this diſeaſe attacks an infant of only a year or two old, or under, the true cauſe of it is ſeldom diſcovered until ſome time after the effect has taken place, as the people attending, whether parents or nurſes, know not where to look for it. The child is ſaid to be uncommonly backward in the uſe of his legs, or is thought to have received ſome hurt at the time of birth.

When again it affects a child that is old enough to have already walked, and who has been able to walk, the loſs of the uſe of his legs is gradual, though in general not very ſlow.

He at firſt complains of being very ſoon tired, is languid, liſtleſs, and unwilling to move much or at all briſkly; in no great length of time after this he may be obſerved frequently to trip, and ſtumble, although there is no impediment in his way; and whenever he attempts to move briſkly, he finds that his legs involuntarily croſs each other, by which he is frequently thrown down, and that without ſtumbling; upon endeavouring to ſtand ſtill and erect, without ſupport, even for a few minutes, his knees give way and bend forward.

When

When the diſtemper is a little farther advanced, it will be found, that he cannot without much difficulty and deliberation direct either of his feet preciſely to any exact point; and very ſoon after this, both thighs and legs loſe a great deal of their natural ſenſibility, and become perfectly uſeleſs for all the purpoſes of loco-motion.

When an adult is the patient, the progreſs of the diſtemper, we are told, is much the ſame, but rather quicker.

The curvature of the ſpine when detected, and which is ſuppoſed to be the cauſe of this complaint, is found to vary in ſituation, extent, and degree, being either in the neck or back, and ſometimes in the upper part of the loins; ſometimes it comprehends two vertebræ only, ſometimes three or more, by which the extent of the curve becomes neceſſarily more or leſs; but whatever may be the degree or extent of the curvature, the lower limbs only feel the effect, at leaſt the arms, we are told, have never been obſerved to be affected by it.

The curvature in the ſpine which occurs here is almoſt always attributed to external violence; but our author is of opinion that in

in ſuch inſtances the effect is miſtaken for the cauſe, and that previous both to the paralytic ſtate of the legs, and to the alteration of the figure of the back-bone, there is a prediſpoſing cauſe of both, conſiſting in a diſtempered ſtate of the ligaments and bones, where the curve ſoon after makes its appearance.

All the uſual machinery, of ſteel plates, ſtiff ſtays, &c. commonly recommended for correcting this ſpecies of deformity, inſtead of anſwering that purpoſe, rather tending to aggravate the diſorder, our author was ſome-time ago, by a hint from Dr. Cameron at Worceſter, induced to make trial of iſſues, inſerted near to the diſeaſed parts, and the ſucceſs which has ſince that time attended the practice, has been much greater than he had the leaſt reaſon to expect.—The firſt attempts were by means of pea-iſſues; afterwards ſetons introduced on each ſide of the curve were tried; but theſe frequently coming out, a large opening was at laſt made upon each ſide of the ſpine by means of cauſtic, and the diſcharge preſerved by the introduction of a kidney bean, and by every three or four days ſprinkling the bottom of the ſore with fine powder of cantharides.

For

For a more particular account of the ſucceſs of this remedy, we muſt refer our readers to the work itſelf, but we cannot avoid inſerting the following very ſingular caſe.

There is now, our author ſays, a boy in Bartholomew's hoſpital, of about twelve years old, whoſe caſe was ſo truely deplorable, that a trial of the remedy was made, merely to avoid the appearance of inhumanity in diſcharging him as incurable without trying ſomething.—The curvature was in his back, and conſiſted of three or four vertebræ, but by means of the weakneſs thereby induced, the whole ſet of dorſal ones had ſo univerſally and gradually given way, that he was exceedingly deformed both behind and before. He was ſo abſolutely incapable of motion, that he could neither turn himſelf nor ſit up in his bed; his feet were pointed downwards, and his ancles ſo ſtiff that when he was held up, the extremities of his great toes touched the floor, nor could his feet be brought flat to the ground by any means or force whatever. In ſhort, he was in every reſpect as helpleſs as can be ſuppoſed, and at the ſame time in an exceeding bad ſtate of health, from diſorders of the thoracic and abdominal viſcera.

In this ſtate he had been more than a year; it is now about three months ſince the cauſtics were applied; he is become healthy, and free from moſt of his general complaints; has the moſt perfect uſe of his legs while in bed, can walk without the aſſiſtance of any body, or of any thing to hold by; and from his manner of executing this, there is little doubt, we are told, of his recovering, in a ſhort time, the perfect uſe of his legs.

To this it ſhould be added, that although a conſiderable degree of deformity does, and probably will always remain, yet the ſpine in general is ſo much ſtrengthened, that the boy is ſeveral inches taller than he was four months ago.

In the ſecond part of this publication, we are favoured, as is expreſſed in the title, with obſervations on the neceſſity and propriety of amputation in certain caſes, and under certain circumſtances.

Our author, we are told, was led to theſe obſervations, from his being ſatisfied, that the propriety of amputations in certain caſes, ſtands upon as fixed and as rational principles as any part of ſurgery. And from a contrary doc-

doctrine having within these few years been industriously propagated, much to the prejudice of mankind, both as serving to cover ignorance and timidity, and for answering the base purpose of malevolence.

The doctrine alluded to, which condemns amputation in all cases whatever, and almost without exception, was first propagated by Mr. Bilguer, surgeon in the Prussian service, whose work upon that subject was afterwards translated into French by Mr. Tissot, who likewise added notes and observations of his own, in confirmation of the practice recommended.

Our author by no means wishes to have it understood, that he means to inculcate the necessity of amputating limbs in any other circumstances, than those wherein the most judicious practitioners of all ages have found that practice necessary. The intention of the present publication is merely to shew, that in various instances, such circumstances do occur, as render timidity in this respect very injurious to patients; for which reason, the young and unexperienced, as well as others, are here put upon their guard, against receiving too easily the opinion of Mr. Bilguer.

SECT. II.

Medical Observations.

I.

Observations on Mineral Poisons, by Dr. Houlston, *Physician in Liverpool.*

IT did not, till very lately, occur to me, that in treating of the antidotes, or remedies, for mineral poisons, alcaline salts are omitted to be recommended, both in Tissot's *Advice to the People*, and Buchan's *Domestic Medicine*, books very generally read and esteemed. As the effects of these poisons are often so sudden as not to admit of calling in medical assistance, it seems the more necessary to add this remedy to those recommended for common use to

to the people; and as the following hiſtory of facts will tend to demonſtrate the importance, and to eſtabliſh the reaſonableneſs, of this practice (although it happened ſome years ago), I have thought it might be productive of good to ſociety that it ſhould be more extenſively known.

In 1774, one Jones, a cow-keeper of Liverpool, was convicted at the Lancaſter aſſizes, of poiſoning his ſiſter-in-law in revenge for her having oppoſed him in the ſale of ſome property, of right belonging to the children of her ſiſter, his former wife. Under an appearance of reconciliation, he had treated her, and the wife of the intended purchaſer, William Aſhcroft, one morning, at a public houſe, with ſome ale, which he himſelf had warmed. He put ſugar in it, and had repeatedly poured it backwards and forwards from one cup into another. The ſiſter-in-law went thence into the neighbourhood of Ormſkirk (thirteen miles diſtant) where, in a few days, ſhe died. The coroner could not attend as ſoon as was deſired, and the body was in a very putrid ſtate when it was opened. In the ſtomach were found, ſome ſmall particles of what were judged to be

cor-

corrofive fublimate; but of this circumftance I was not informed till after the other woman was better.

Mrs. Afhcroft came to me, May 5th, a week after her drinking this ale. Immediately after fhe took it, fhe fet out to go to Prefcot (feven miles) part of the way in a carriage, the reft on foot. She had not gone far before there came on a violent pain in her ftomach, with continued vomiting, and intolerable thirft, fo fhe ftopped to drink water almoft at each ditch. Her tongue, from her own account too, was confiderably fwelled. After much vomiting fhe was fomewhat relieved; but, to the time fhe applied to me, fhe had continued to vomit up every thing fhe took, and complained of a heat and pain in her ftomach; at fome times much more violent than at others. As fhe feemed not in much pain then, and had vomited fo frequently, I only advifed her, when ever fhe was fick, to wafh her ftomach plentifully with chamomile tea; hoping, that in a little time, the vomiting might be checked. The account of the death of the other woman alarmed her greatly (as they had drank out of the fame cup), and on the 7th in the evening fhe was extremely ill; her ftomach

 fwelled,

ſwelled, and was violently painful, ſo that ſhe could ſcarcely ſpeak to be heard. On conſidering the ſtory ſhe had told me, of the man's having put ſugar in the ale, and beſtowed ſo much pains in mixing it thoroughly, it occured to me, that the poiſon added might probably be the corroſive ſublimate, which does not eaſily diſſolve, and that ſome of it, having been ſwallowed undiſſolved might remain in that ſtate enveloped in the mucus and attached to the coats of the ſtomach; which as it gradually diſſolved irritated and cauſed heat, pain, and vomiting. In this idea, I gave her a few ſpoonfuls of a ſolution of ſalt of tartar, with a view to decompoſe the ſublimate, and ſhe had no ſooner ſwallowed it then ſhe was eaſier. A little while after ſhe took a vomit, and I cauſed ſome blood to be taken away to guard againſt inflammation of the ſtomach; ſhe was much better the next day, eat her dinner well, and did not vomit; but, on the 9th at night, the pain returned, with great violence, and yeilded, as expeditiouſly as before, to the ſolution of ſalt of tartar. I now firſt heard of there being ſomething found in the ſtomach of the other woman, ſuppoſed to be ſublimate; and, on queſtioning my patient, learned, that

ſhe

ſhe had always been moſt relieved, when after ſeveral efforts, ſhe had vomited up a ſmall quantity of ſomething which, as ſhe herſelf expreſſed it, taſted like milk which had ſtood in a braſs pan. From theſe concurring circumſtances, I had now no longer doubt of the poiſon being, as I had ſuppoſed it, ſublimate; and, from the return of the ſymptoms, concluded that there ſtill was ſome of it retained, whoſe ſolution, and action, was only very gradual. After repeating the vomit, I adviſed her to continue conſtantly the ſolution of ſalt of tartar. This, however, ſhe had neglected, and on the 11th ſhe had a freſh attack, which yielded readily to a repetition of the ſame means. As her objection to the ſalt of tartar was its diſagreeable taſte, I ordered her ſome pills, containing each 3 grains of it, which convinced of the neceſſity ſhe did not omit taking. On the 15th was perfectly well and ſo continued.

The concluſion I would draw from hence is this; in all caſes of poiſon it is prudent immediately to give a ſolution of an alcali, followed by a vomit. If the poiſon be corroſive ſublimate, an alkali, either fixed or volatile, will decompoſe it, and precipitate the metal

in a form nearly inoffenfive. It will have a fimilar effect on the fugar of lead, the extract of lead, or on any metallic falt. If the poifon be arfenic, Neumann obferves, that, " alcalies will very plentifully diffolve it." And if fo, as it is difficultly foluble in water, the vomit will then fucceed the better to difcharge it. Whether or no fulphur, exhibited in any form might leffen the danger of arfenic is not clear, though thefe two, when united, are not poifonous. If the poifon be of the vegetable clafs, an alcali can be of no differvice, nor interfere with the other means of remedying by evacuation, nor yet by the fubfequent ufe of acids, fo ftrongly infifted on by Tiffot, as counteracting the effects of narcotics; fince acids given together with alkaline falts, are pronounced to be attended with great fuccefs in this cafe, by Dr. Mead and others.

To fupply the omiffion then in thofe popular writers, might not the following directions be given on this fubject. " When fymptoms " of poifon appear, mix a tea fpoonful of any " of the following articles, falt of tartar, falt " of wormwood, pearl-afh, pot-afh, fpirit of " harts-horn or of fal volatile, with half a " pint of water, and of this let one half be

" given

“ given to the patient immediately, and the
“ other in a ſhort time afterwards. It will
“ ſometimes give great relief, and the vomit-
“ ing will ceaſe. That, however, is ſtill to
“ be promoted, and if it does not return
“ on drinking warm water, &c. after wait-
“ ing a while it will be proper to give a vomit
“ of ipecacuanha, or, if that is not ſufficient,
“ one ſtill ſtronger. After each vomiting, a
“ doſe of this ſolution of ſalt of tartar ſhould
“ be given, and it may be repeated every two
“ or three hours, eſpecially if the pain of the
“ ſtomach returns. It ſhould be continued too
“ in ſmall doſes for ſome time after the ſymp-
“ toms diſappear. If none of theſe ſalts are
“ at hand, a little wood-aſhes mixed with
“ boiling water will anſwer the ſame end,
“ ſuffering them to ſtand till they ſettle, and
“ pouring the water clear off. By taſting it,
“ the degree of ſaltneſs will determine if the
“ ſolution be ſtrong enough, if it be not diſ-
“ agreeably ſo it may be given.”

II.

The Hiſtory of an obſtinate Affection of the Bowels, cured by the Injection of a Decoction of Tobacco, by Dr. John Evans, *Phyſician at Oſweſtry, Shropſhire.*

ON the 6th of October, about two o'clock in the afternoon, I was ſent for to Mr. Loyd, a young gentleman about eleven years of age, who had, an hour before, received a violent kick from a horſe, upon the right hypogaſtrium. Another perſon of the faculty, who was preſent when the accident happened, immediately bled him. Upon my arrival, I found him in great pain, with a low irregular pulſe, and a laborious reſpiration. Dreading the conſequences that might enſue from ſuch an accident, I adviſed his parents to conſult Dr. Owen, an eminent phyſician, of Shrewſbury, who happened fortunately to be in Oſweſtry at that time.

The doctor ordered an opening medicine to be taken by the mouth, a fomentation, with an embrocation of camphorated oil to be applied to the belly, and an emollient glyſter to be

be immediately injected, with directions that the laſt of theſe ſhould be frequently repeated if neceſſary.

The next morning I found him labouring under ſome febrile ſymptoms, ſuch as quick pulſe, intenſe thirſt, parched tongue, with conſiderable tenſion of the whole abdomen, and a total ſuppreſſion of urine; the ſame mode of treatment was purſued, together with a draught of oil and manna, which he took every four or five hours, according to the doctor's directions.

On the 8th, his fever was rather abated, having had evacuations both by ſtool and urine, which afforded conſiderable relief, nevertheleſs the ſwelling of the abdomen ſtill remained.

On the 9th, his complaints were in every reſpect the ſame as before, and his medicines were continued.

On the 10th, his pain, fever, and ſwelling of belly were conſiderably abated, and his evacuations, both by ſtool and urine, had been ſufficiently copious. From this time, he continued recovering gradually until the 17th, on which day he was, without my knowlege, permitted to go down ſtairs into a kitchen

(which

which had been waſhed but a few minutes before where he remained near an hour, ſurrounded by a large quantity of wet linen, which was hung within the heat of the fire to be dried. That night he was attacked with violent pain, ſoreneſs, and tenſion of the whole abdomen, quick pulſe, and other ſymptoms of enteritis.

On the 18th, finding him in that ſituation, I took away a large quantity of blood, and adminiſtered a glyſter; but this procuring no evacuation by ſtool, I repeated the opening medicines. In the afternoon he was ſeized with excruciating pains in his ſtomach, for which he took an anodyne draught, and reſted rather eaſier that night.

On the 19th, his bowels were ſtill conſtipated, and his pains returned, accompanied with frequent vomiting, quick pulſe, and great tenſion of the abdomen. The glyſter, and other remedies were repeated, about eight ounces of blood were again taken away, and the anodyne draught repeated at night.

On the 20th, his bowels ſtill remained conſtipated, the pains, tenſion, and vomiting continuing, he was put into a warm bath, and had

had a glyſter of warm water, and oleum Ricini; the anodyne was repeated, as before.

On the 21ſt, all his ſymptoms encreaſing, the warm bath and glyſter were repeated; he likewiſe took his anodyne with a couple of pills, conſiſting of extract. cathart. and calomel, one of which was repeated every three hours.

On the 22d, his pains were ſomething leſs ſevere, though the tenſion, &c. ſtill remained, and his pulſe was extremely feeble, he had alſo frequent vomitings, which were evidently excrementitious. His medicines were continued, and ſeveral ſuppoſitories were ſucceſſively introduced; the warm bath was repeated, and as ſoon as he came out of it, the fumes of tobacco were adminiſtered by way of glyſter, but all attempts to relieve him ſtill proved ineffectual. In this deplorable ſituation, after giving him his anodyne as uſual, I left him, expecting that night would have put a period to his ſuffering.

On ths 23d, to my great aſtoniſhment, I found my patient in the ſame ſtate as I left him the preceding afternoon. Being diſappointed in the effect of the fumes of tobacco, I determined

mined to give him a decoction of that plant by way of glister, having more than once administered it, with success, in similar cases, when every other remedy had failed. To eight ounces of this decoction, I added two drachms of soft soap, and one ounce of antimonial wine. In the space of ten minutes after the glyster had been injected, I had the inexpressible satisfaction of seeing my little patient seized with a most copious vomiting and purging. His stools were so exceedingly offensive, that I was under the necessity of quitting the room during some minutes. When he was recovered of his extreme sickness, I gave him an anodyne cordial draught, and left him much relieved.

On the 24th, I found him considerably better, having rested well during the preceding night; the tobacco glyster was repeated, and had again the desired effect.

In one of the stools, which was uncommonly offensive, I discovered a large membranous substance, on which were a considerable number of livid spots; this membrane is still in my possession, and appears evidently to be a portion of the villous coat of the intestines.

Hav-

Having conquered this obſtinate and dangerous diſorder, I gave my patient the Peruvian bark freely; at the ſame time taking particular care to procure a ſtool each day. In the ſpace of a few days I had the pleaſure of ſeeing him perfectly reſtored to his former ſtate of health.

During the whole of this laſt illneſs, his food and beverage was chicken broth, gruel, and barley-water, and ſometimes toaſt and water.

III.

An Account of the Operation of amputating the Thigh at the upper Articulation, lately performed by Mr. William Kerr, *Surgeon to the Royal Regiment of Horſe-Guards Blue, and to the Hoſpital in Northampton. Communicated to Dr.* Duncan, *by Dr.* Toll, *Surgeon to the Fourth Regiment of Dragoons.*

A Girl, between eleven and twelve years of age, was brought into the hoſpital, from Kettering, in December laſt. She had a tumor on the outſide of her right thigh, extending from the middle to near the great trochanter; ſhe was very much emaciated, had

had a conſtant cough, night ſweats, and many more hectic ſymptoms. She told us that ſhe had been ailing upwards of two years, during which period ſhe had frequently had fevers, and that her lameneſs had been gradually increaſing from her firſt illneſs. That at firſt ſhe had little pain, but a few months before ſhe came into the houſe, it became very acute from the groin all round the hip, and till then ſhe never obſerved the tumor before mentioned.

She ſuffered great pain upon the leaſt motion of the joint, and upon every ſuch attempt there was a very perceptible grating to be felt. Being engaged myſelf, I directed Mr. Warden, houſe-ſurgeon to open the tumor the day after ſhe came into the hoſpital; there was diſcharged about half a pint of ill-conditioned matter, and we had the ſame kind of diſcharge, in very great quantity, at every dreſſing, from that time till the operation which was performed the Saturday following.

Flattering myſelf that the hectic ſymptoms, might be the effects of abſorption, convinced that the joint was diſeaſed, and concluding therefore, that there was no other method of cure but by amputating the limb at the articulation, I ſet about it in the following manner.

Hav-

Having laid the patient on the ſound ſide upon a table of a common height, and putting the diſeaſed thigh at right angles with the trunk, I began my inciſion immediately behind the top of the great trochanter, carrying it obliquely backwards and downwards, to the inſide of the thigh, and from thence obliquely upwards to within two inches of the crural artery.

I then began a ſecond inciſion at the ſame place with the former, carrying it in an oppoſite direction over the upper extremity of the trochanter, and from thence obliquely forwards and downwards to within the ſame diſtance of the veſſel, as in the former.

Theſe inciſions were made only through the ſkin and fat, which being well drawn back by by my two aſſiſtants, I cut down into the joint, and from thence carried two other inciſions through the muſcles in the ſame order and direction, and to the ſame extent as thoſe which were made through the outer teguments.

I then turned the head of the femur out of the acetabulum, that I might with more eaſe and ſecurity accompliſh the moſt important part of the operation, namely, the taking up the artery. From the foregoing deſcription you

you will eafily conceive that a flap about four inches in breadth, confifting of all the teguments with the artery included, was ftill undivided. This flap I grafped firmly betwixt the fingers and thumb of my left hand, (my fingers on the fkin fide of it, and my thumb on the mufcular) and cut it through immediately below my hand, and between three and four inches from the paffage of the artery under the ligamentum Fallopii.

The incifion here was made from above downwards, firft through the mufcular part of the flap, and then through the fat, veffels, and fkin. It was done in this manner that the fkin might correfpond with that which was divided by the firft incifions, and that the edges of the wound, we cannot fay ftump, might thereby be kept neat and uniform.

The next ftep was to fecure the artery, which I effected by paffing a ftrong ligature round it with a needle, and getting one of my affiftants to tie it up, fuch a compreffion being all the while made upon it by my left hand in the manner related above, as to prevent the lofs of a fingle drop of blood, and the hæmorrhage from the other arteries was full as inconfiderable

able as in any other amputation of the thigh. By ſaving a good portion of ſkin the wound was much more decent and ſeemly than you can well imagine; but, to my great mortification, I found not only the acetabulum carious, but alſo the adjacent parts of the oſſa innominata to a very conſiderable extent. From her almoſt conſtant cough, I was under the greateſt apprehenſion that the artery would be forced open; yet no miſchief enſued, and the ligature fell off at the fourth or fifth dreſſing. The aſpect of the ſore, in the mean while, giving us the moſt ſanguine hopes of her recovery. But about the tenth or eleventh day, her reſpiration became more difficult, expectoration ceaſed, her mouth and tongue were covered with aphthæ, and ſhe died on the 18th day from the operation. The appearance of the ſore, even to the laſt, was ſuch as to afford good reaſon to ſuppoſe that the immediate cauſe of death was the daily increaſe of the hectic ſymptoms, and that without theſe the operation would have ſucceeded; I therefore had her opened, and our ſuppoſition was, I think, pretty ſtrongly confirmed by the following phenomena. The lungs were almoſt totally reduced to matter, eſpecially on the right ſide,

 in

in which there was ſcarcely a veſtige of pulmonary ſubſtance remaining. The left lobe alſo was full of abſceſſes, and reduced to leſs than half the natural ſize. An abſceſs (commonly called the pſoas abſceſs) was likewiſe found on the right ſide, in the abdomen, which communicated, by a corroded opening within the acetabulum, with the joint.

I have given you an exact narrative of the circumſtances of the caſe, the operation, and the event of it, at leaſt, I do not recollect any other of conſequence. I ſhall not comment farther upon it than juſt to obſerve, that the total deſtruction of the ligamentum rotundum by the ſuppuration within the joint, contributed greatly to the facility with which the operation was accompliſhed; for I imagine, if that ligament had been entire, the diviſion of it would have been attended with perhaps conſiderable embarraſſment, I think, however, it might be effected in a ſound joint.

With regard to the expediency of the operation, I am ſo much convinced of it in certain caſes, that in ſuch I ſhall not, for the future, heſitate to perform it when they occur.

IV. The

IV.

The History of a very uncommon convulſive Cough, cured by the Flowers of Zinc. By Dr. Charles Leith, *at Johnſtone, near Montroſe.*

ON the 25th of July, a poor woman brought her daughter to me, about fourteen years of age, affected with the moſt violent convulſive cough I had ever ſeen or heard of. It attacked her by fits at uncertain intervals of half an hour, two, or ſometimes three hours diſtance, and commonly held her in one continued cough from five to fifteen or twenty minutes at a time. When ſhe drew in her breath, it was with that kind of howling noiſe, but longer and louder than is common, in the chin-cough, and with a ſeemingly ſtronger and more laborious inſpiration than ever I had obſerved in any perſon ill of that diſeaſe. As ſoon as the fit was over ſhe ſeemed perfectly well, as if ſhe ailed nothing; and could ſpeak, ſing, or walk, without any danger of bringing on the fit again. It had ſeized her about three or four days before I ſaw her, and in that time had ſeldom intermitted for more than three hours. She had a fit of it while waiting for me, which laſted a full quarter of an hour;

the howling noiſe of which, was heard all over the houſe, and alarmed the whole family, who could not for ſome time diſcover what odd ſound it was, having ſcarce any reſemblance to the human voice. She had another, while talking with me, which laſted about five minutes. Her mother inſiſted that it could not be the hooping-cough, which I thought it reſembled, as ſhe had gone through that diſorder ſeveral years before; and it is the general opinion, that, like the ſmall-pox and meaſles, that diſeaſe never attacks the ſame perſon twice. Be that as it would, it plainly appeared to be a convulſive cough, and a proper opportunity for trying the effects of the flowers of zinc, as lately recommended by Dr. Percival, which I therefore determined to give her. But as the girl appeared to be plethoric, and her eyes ſomewhat inflamed from the violence of the cough, I thought it prudent to adviſe the mother to get her bled in the arm, and to apply a bliſter to her neck as ſoon as ſhe could. Mean time I gave her thirty pills, each containing one grain of the flowers of zinc, one of which ſhe took immediately about four o'clock in the afternoon. Another I ordered to be taken at bed-time, and one every ſix hours afterwards.

On

On the 27th, the mother returned, at my desire, to let me know the effects.

The blister had been applied on the evening of the 25th, and she was blooded on the morning of the 26th. She took the pills as directed, and had but one slight return of her cough after taking the first, and that was on her return home from my house. I desired her to continue the use of the pills for two or three days longer. On the 30th, her mother brought her to me again; she had taken four pills every day, and had no return of her cough, excepting that slight one above mentioned in her way home on the 25th.

This cure could not be attributed to the blister, or bleeding, for the cough had ceased before either of them was used.

From hence I am induced to believe, that this will prove a sovereign medicine in the hooping-cough, if given early in the disease, i. e. while the distemper is purely convulsive, and before a flux of humours, from the repeated paroxysms, is settled on the bronchia; for when that comes to be the case, it is obvious that other methods of cure are indicated, besides the use of antispasmodics.

SECT. III.

Medical News.

THE Royal Society of Medicine, lately eſtabliſhed at Paris, of which we have already given ſome account, have lately diſtributed among their members ſeveral printed papers, reſpecting the nature and intention of their inſtitution. Among theſe are the following:

Lettres patentes du Roi, pour l'etabliſſement d'une Société Royale de Medecine, données a Verſailles au mois d'Août, 1778, regiſtrées en parlement le 1er Septembre audit an.

Travaux propoſés aux medecins et phyſiciens regnicoles & etrangers, par la Société Royale de Medecine dans ſa Seance publique tenüe

tenüe le Mardi 20 Octobre 1778, au College Royal de France.

Prix proposés par la Société Royale de Medecine dans sa Seance publique, tenüe le Mardi, 20 Octobre, 1778, au College Royal de France.

To the letters patent is subjoined, an accurate list of all the members of the society, divided into the five classes of, Officiers de la société, Associés ordinaires, Associés libres, Associés regnicoles, Associés etrangers.

It is proposed that the memoirs of the society shall consist of the following subjects.

1. Les Details des deux Seances publiques de chaque Année, les Programmes des prix, l'Eloge des associés Morts, les Noms de ceux qui correspondent & une Notice de leurs Ouvrages. 2. Les Observations Meteorologiques, faites dans les differentes Parties de la France, dont le President de la Société a l'Honneur de presenter chaque semaine les resultats au Roi. 3. La Topographie medicale des differentes Villes & Cantons. 4°. La Description des Maladies Endemiques. 5°. Celle des Maladies Epidemiques. 6°. Celle des Epizooties. 7°. Des Observations de Medecine-pratique. 8°. Des Obser-

Obſervations Chirurgicales. 9°. Des Obſervations Anatomiques. 10°. Des Obſervations de Chymie-Medicale, & Analyſe des differentes Eaux minerales. 11mo. Des Obſervations de Botanique. 12mo. Des Obſervations de Phyſique-generale. 13mo. Les Details des Recherches & Experiences ordonnées par la Société. 14mo. Les Diſſertations qui auront remporté les Prix.

After thus pointing out the different particulars, which are intended to be the ſubject of their publications, they conclude with obſerving, that there is no phyſician or philoſopher who may not contribute ſomething to their collection, by beſtowing attention at the place of his reſidence to the objects mentioned above.

The following queſtions are propoſed as the ſubjects of enquiry for the prize diſſertations.

I. Determiner quel peut être le meilleur Traitment de la Rage.

II. D' établir 1° par l' Analyſe Chymique, quelle eſt la Nature des Remedes Antiſcorbutiques proprement dits. 2°. Par l' Obſervation, quel doit être leur Uſage, & leur combinaiſon dans les différentes eſpeces & complications, & dans les differens degres du Scorbut.

III. Exiſte

III. Exiſte-t-il veritablement une Fievre Miliaire eſſentielle et diſtincte des autres Fievres Exanthematiques & dans quelle Conſtitution doit-elle être rangée.

IV. Determiner par un Nombre ſuffiſant d' Obſervations & d' Experiences exactes ſi les Maladies contagieuſes, principalement la Petite Verole, peuvent ſe tranſmettre par l'Interméde de l' Air.

V. D' indiquer la meilleure Methode pour guerir promptement & ſurement lá Gale, contractée par Communication, comme il arrive dans les Caſernes, dans les Atteliers, dans les Hôpitaux & dans les Priſons.

VI. Fair connoitre le moyen le plus prompt, le moins diſpendieux et en même-temps le plus ſûr pour guerir la Gonorrhée virulente & pour prevenir les accidens qui en ſont ordinairment les ſuites.

Memoirs on theſe different ſubjects, accompanied with a ſealed billet, containing the name of the author, and marked on the back with the ſame motto as the memoir, muſt be tranſmitted to M. Vicq d' Azyr, Secretaire perpetuel de la Société Royale de Medecine, Rue de Sepulcre, a Paris.

Mr.

* * * * *

Mr. John Aitken, ſurgeon in Edinburgh, who has for ſome years paſt delivered lectures on that branch of the medical art, has at preſent in the preſs a work entitled, Elements of Syſtematic Surgery, which will ſpeedily be publiſhed. This work, which is principally intended as a text-book for future courſes of lectures, is, however, written upon ſuch a plan as to be adapted for other readers. It conſiſts of three parts.

1. Introduction, or Preliminary Obſervations reſpecting Medicine; its Diviſion into Phyſic and Surgery; their Limits, &c.

2. Chirurgical Noſology, or a Methodical Arrangement of Chirurgical Diſeaſes, with the Synonyma, Definitions, and Remarks on their Nature, Seats, Varieties, and Remedies.

3. Chirurgical Operation, or, an Enumeration and Explication of Manual Surgery, correſpondent to the Noſology.

* * * * *

Dr. John Purcell, one of the profeſſors of anatomy in Trinity-College, Dublin, has lately tranſmitted to the Medical Society of Edinburgh, an

an Eſſay, containing many intereſting remarks on the operation of the ſection of the ſymphiſis pubis, which has lately been ſo much the ſubject of controverſy at Paris. In this paper, among other particulars, Dr. Purcell endeavours to ſhew, that this operation, which has hitherto been propoſed only for the extraction of the fœtus in caſes for which the Cæſarian ſection was formerly recommended, promiſes to be productive of ſtill greater advantage in caſes of retroverted uterus, which would otherwiſe prove fatal. How far his reaſoning upon this ſubject is ſufficient to render the operation adviſeable, our readers will be beſt able to judge, from a candid peruſal of the paper itſelf, which will appear in the firſt volume of the Tranſactions of the Medical Society, a work which is at preſent preparing for the preſs. Mean while, the communicating to our readers, this propoſal of Dr. Purcell's, may, perhaps, be of ſome uſe; if this practice ſhall ſeem adviſeable to thoſe, to whom ſuch unfortunate caſes may occur.

* * * * *

Dr. Odier, of Geneva, in a letter to Dr. Duncan, communicates to him the following obſerv-

obſervation reſpecting the uſe of different remedies in fevers of the intermittent kind.

" We have here repeated the obſervations of Dr. Lind on the uſe of opium in intermittents, and almoſt always with the greateſt ſucceſs. We give laudanum as he does, to the extent of twenty-five drops, half an hour after the beginning of the hot fit, and we find that it ſhortens it much. It calms the anxiety and head-ach, which generally accompany it. It brings on ſweating much ſooner, and renders it more profuſe. It makes even the return of the paroxyſms more regular; and has, in ſome inſtances, been alone ſufficient to ſtop the fever altogether. In general, however, a few doſes of Peruvian bark, with ſome purgatives, are neceſſary.

We have given opium even in caſes where Dr. Lind thinks that it ought not to be given, and with equal ſucceſs; I mean thoſe in which there is much delirium, which we have never found to be encreaſed by it, but on the contrary, much oftener to be removed and always to be diminiſhed.

I remember to have ſeen a caſe in St. Thomas's hoſpital, in London, of a quartan ague, which

which had lafted two years, and in which Dr. Fordyce gave a dofe of Dover's powder, with a fweating draught of falt of hartfhorn, two hours before the fit in order to ftop it. This fucceeded very well. A profufe fweat came on juft before the hour at which the cold fit ufed to return, and it was altogether prevented. Some dofes of Peruvian bark were afterwards adminiftered; and this fever, which had before refifted many remedies, even the bark itfelf, was then in a few days effectually cured.

This obfervation we have had many opportunities of repeating here; not only in quartan, but alfo in tertian agues; and we find, that whenever the patient can be brought to fweat, the fit is altogether ftopt. If he does not fweat, the fit is neverthelefs much diminifhed thereby."

* * * * *

On Thurfday, the 28th of October, Dr. Duncan will begin at Edinburgh, his lectures on the Theory and Practice of Medicine. This courfe of lectures will be concluded about the beginning of May. Five lectures are read every week, and the fame lecture is repeated twice

twice every day, viz. between eleven and twelve o'clock in the forenoon, and between five and fix o'clock in the evening. The fee for attendance is two guineas; and every ftudent has it in his option to attend at either, or at both hours.

On Saturday, the 30th of October, Dr. Duncan will begin a courfe of lectures on the cafes of patients fubjected to chronical difeafes. This courfe will alfo continue till the beginning of May. One lecture being delivered every Saturday. The moft important cafes which occur at the public Difpenfary will be felected as the fubjects of thefe lectures; and, in treating of each cafe, the obfervations which are offered will be entirely confined to fuch remarks on the hiftory and method of treatment, as appear to be of the greateft utility in practice.

About the beginning of May, Dr. Duncan and Dr. Webfter, will begin their courfe of cafe lectures for the fummer feffion. This courfe will continue for about three months, and befides the lectures on the cafes of patients, which will be delivered every Monday and Thurfday, lectures will alfo be given every Tuefday, Wednefday, and Friday, containing

taining remarks on the Pharmacopœias of the Colleges of Physicians of London and Edinburgh.

* * * * *

The Dutch Society of Sciences, established at Harlem, in their Programma for the year 1779, besides the subjects for prize dissertations relating to astronomy and some branches of general physics, have proposed the following, which are more strictly medical.

1. Quelle est la veritable nature des Brouillards ou exhalaisons marines qu'on nomme en Hollande *Zeevlammen*? Quels effets produisent-ils, & quels sont les moyens d'en prevenir les suites pernicieuses?

2. La pureté de l'atmosphere a la plus grande influence sur la santé des habitans d'une ville. Celle de *Batavia* est dans l'impossibilité d'en jouir, par les vapeurs infectés des eaux de la riviere, qui sont ou stagnantes ou coulantes trop lentement, & qui se remplissent journellement de plusieurs milles de livres d'immondice.—Quels seroient les meilleurs moyens d'accelerer le courant, & d'effectuer une decharge plus prompte & plus efficace de ces in-

in-

infections, afin de procurer a la ville de Batavia un atmosphere plus pur & plus salubre?

3. Quelle est l'influence du dessechiment des Marais, Etangs, &c. sur l'état de notre pais? Quelles en sont les suites utiles on nuisibles? Et dans le dernier cas quelles sont le precautions a prendre pour prevenir ces suites?

Those who chuse to employ themselves in giving answers to these questions, are desired to transmit them before the first of January, 1780. The answers to the questions proposed, as well as the direction on the back of the letter which accompanies them, must not be of the hand-writing of the author, nor signed by his name, or place of abode; but marked with a device or motto, and accompanied with a sealed letter, having the same device for its direction, and containing the name and address of the author. The dissertations must be written in the Dutch, French, or Latin language, and addressed to Mr. C. C. H. Vander Aa, secretary to the society.

Dr. John Hope, professor of Botany in the University of Edinburgh, has lately been elected a member of the Harlem Society.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

List of New Books.

PHilosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Vol. LXVIII. for the year 1778. Part I. 4to. London.

A discourse on the theory of gunnery. Delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society, Nov. 30, 1778. By Sir John Pringle, Bart. 4to. London.

Gulstonian lectures read at the College of Physicians, Feb. 15, 16, and 17, by Samuel Musgrave, M. D. Fellow of the College, and of the Royal Society. Containing three lectures, 1. On the dyspnœa. 2. On the pleurisy and peripneumony. 3. On the pulmonary consumption. 8vo. London.

A treatise on the teeth, by Barth. Ruspini. A new edition, with an appendix of new cases. 8vo. London.

A treatiſe on the inflammation of the breaſts peculiar to lying-in women; and alſo upon ſome diſeaſes attending them, which are the conſequences of neglect and mal-treatment. By J. Clubbe, Surgeon. 8vo. London.

Experiments and obſervations relating to natural philoſophy. By J. Prieſtley, LL. D. 8vo. London.

Deſcriptions and figures of petrefactions found near Bath. By John Walcott, Eſq. 8vo. London.

Seventy-four ſelect caſes, by W. Rowley, M. D. 8vo. London.

Obſervations on the blood, by W. Hey, F. R. S. 8vo. London.

A ſucceſsful method of treating the gout by bliſtering. By W. Stevenſon, Phyſician, 8vo. London.

Trattato delle acque minerali di Nicolo Andria Dottore in medicina & Profeſſore ſtraordinario di ſtoria naturale nella regia univerſità di Napoli. 8vo. Napoli.

Memoire ſur les effets ſalutaires de l'eau-de vie de genievre dans les Pays-Bas, froid, humides, & marecageux tant en ſanté que dans

la

la plupart des incommodités & dans plusieurs maladies, confirmés par l'experience & par des observations multipliées: par M. Daignan, M. D. conseiller-medecin du Roi, & de l'hopital militaire de Bergues, de la société royale de medecine de Paris. 4to. Paris.

Recherches sur les causes des maladies, qui ont régné à Gravelines, tant dans la garnison que parmi les habitans, depuis deux ans, particuliérment dans l' automne de cette année 1777; par M. Daignan, M.D. &c. 8vo. Paris.

Progrès ulterieurs de la chirurgie, ou remarques & observations nouvelles de M. Theden, un des chirurgiens generaux de S. M. le Roi de Prusse, ouvrage traduit de l'Allemand. Par M. Chayron, chirurgien-major du regiment de Neustrie infanterie. 8vo. Paris.

Lettre a M. Prost de Royer, lieutenant-general de police de la Ville, Fauxbourg, & Banlieue de Lyon. 8vo. Lyons.

Reflexions sur la section de la symphyse du pubis presentées & dédiées a M. Lenoir conseiller d'état, lieutenant-general de police. Par M. Piet, accoucheur chargé, par le gouvernement, de secourir les femmes indigentes dans les accouchmens difficultueux. 8vo. A la Haye.

Examen ſur les eaux minerales de la fontaine de Buſſang. Par M. D—. membre des Sociétés Royale de Suede & Heſſe-Hombourg, &c. 8vo. Eſpinal.

Diſſertationes medicæ inaugurales quas ex auctoritate reverendi admodum viri Gulielmi Robertſon, SS. T. P. Academiæ Edinburgenæ præfecti; nec non ampliſſimi ſenatus academici conſenſu, & nobiliſſimæ facultatis medicæ decreto, pro gradu doctoratus, ſummiſque in medicina honoribus et privilegiis rite & legitime conſequendis, eruditorum examini ſubjecerunt ad diem 24 Junii, 1779.

Jacobus Bennet, Hibernus, de hydrope-anaſarca.

Arthurus Broughton, Anglus, de vermibus inteſtinorum.

Joannes Ford, Anglus, de morbis contagioſis.

Gulielmus Hamilton, Hibernus, de ſanguine humano.

Samuel Hayman, Hibernus, de gaſtritide.

Edvardus Johnſtone, Britannus, de febre puerperali.

Cadwalladar-Blaney Lee, Hibernus, de rubeola.

Georgius Logan, Pennſylvanienſis, de venenis.

Joſephus

Josephus Hart Myers, Americanus, de diabete.

Stephanus Pellet, Britannus, de palustrium locorum insalubritate a miasmate oriunda.

Jacobus Stewart, Marylandiensis, de spasmo.

Thomas Waite, Anglo-Britannus, de abortu.

Gabriel Wynne, Cambro-Britannus, de cortice Peruviano, usuque ejus in morbis febrilibus.

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MEDICAL

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL

COMMENTARIES.

By a SOCIETY in EDINBURGH.

Attamen errores non ſunt artis ſed artificum.

NEWTON.

VOLUME SIXTH.

PART IV.

LONDON:

Printed for J. MURRAY, No. 32. Fleet-ſtreet;
M. DRUMMOND, J. BELL, W. CREECH,
and C. ELLIOT, *Edinburgh*;

M,DCC,LXXIX.

MEDICAL COMMENTARIES.

SECT. I.

An Account of Books.

I.

Dissertatio Medica Inauguralis de Quassia, et Lichene Islandico. Auctore Joh. Theod. Phil. Christ. Ebeling. 8*vo*. Glasguæ.

IN the first part of this dissertation, our author, before proceeding to the enumeration of such disorders as quassia is proper for, gives first an accurate description of the plant, and afterwards proceeds to ascertain experimentally its several qualities, as will appear from the following detail.

EXPERIMENT I.

A comparative trial was made with quaſſia, curſuta or gentiana lutea ſylveſtris, colomba, colocynthis, cortex Peruvianus, lichen Iſlandicus, and gentiana lutea vulgaris, in order to determine the degree of bitterneſs of each; and the following, we are told, is the order in which, with reſpect to this quality, they ought ſtand.

Cortex Peruvianus, lichen Iſlandicus, gentiana, colomba, quaſſia, colocynthis, curſuta; but although curſuta was evidently more bitter than quaſſia, yet the bitterneſs of the latter was of a much more agreeable nature than that of curſuta.

EXPER. II.

A ſolution of ſalt of ſteel, being added both to the decoction and infuſion of quaſſia, no change of colour was perceived in either; nor was any additional firmneſs given to a piece of fleſh immerſed in them for the ſpace of ſeveral days. Theſe, our author obſerves, are evident proofs that quaſſia poſſeſſes little or no aſtringency.

EX-

EXPER. III.

In this experiment, trials were made for the diſcovery of the beſt menſtruum for quaſſia. A cold infuſion in water, eſpecially when aſſiſted by trituration, was found to poſſeſs a greater degree of bitterneſs, than either the warm infuſion, or even the decoction. It was likewiſe found, that this bitterneſs of quaſſia, was readily communicated to ſpirits, both proof and rectified; to the different kinds of wines, and to vinegar.

EXPER. IV.

An infuſion of quaſſia and water being diſtilled; the water which came over, was found to be ſomewhat bitter, and was of a yellowiſh colour; but there was not the leaſt appearance of any eſſential oil.

An ounce of quaſſia frequently boiled in water, afforded only one dram of extract, of a brown iron colour.

EXPER. V.

In order to determine the antiſeptic virtues of quaſſia, a comparative trial was made with it and ſeveral other articles. A quantity of

 blood

blood was added to ſimilar quantities of the cold watery infuſions of the following articles, all contained in ſeparate phials placed in the ſame degree of heat; viz. quaſſia, lichen Iſlandicus, curſuta, ſalix, gentiana, and cortex Peruvianus.

As they are here mentioned in order, according to the antiſeptic effects they are exhibited, quaſſia it would appear is not poſſeſſed of much influence in preſerving other bodies from putreſcency. And from this experiment too, it is evident, our author remarks, that the antiſeptic powers of plants, neither depends upon the degrees of bitterneſs or of aſtringency poſſeſſed by them; for here, the curſuta, and willow, were both found leſs antiſeptic than Peruvian bark, although the one is much more bitter, and the other remarkably more aſtringent than it.

In another experiment, however, it was found, that *bile*, was preſerved longer from putrefaction both by lichen Iſlandicus, and curſuta, than even by Peruvian bark itſelf, which makes our author conclude, that the antiſeptic powers of plants with reſpect to bile, muſt probably in ſome meaſure depend upon their degree of biterneſs.

Our

Our author now proceeds to enumerate the opinions of Linnæus and other writers with reſpect to the medical virtues of quaſſia, in fevers and other diſeaſes, but as he does not here advance any thing new from his own proper experience, we muſt refer our readers, for the opinions of the authors to their ſeveral works.

De Lichene Iſlandico.

As deſcriptions of the lichen Iſlandicus are to be met with in Ray, Moriſon, Hudſon, and Lightfoot, as well as in the works of Linnæus and other foreign writers, we need not here trouble our readers with any account of its botanical hiſtory, and ſhall proceed immediately to our author's experiment upon this article alſo.

EXPER. I.

This experiment was inſtituted with a view to determine the degree of aſtringency poſſeſſed by the lichen Iſlandicus.

A drachm of Jeſuit's bark in powder, of the bark of willow, of the lichen Iſlandicus, of the geum rivale, of bohea tea, and of the eglantine roſe-leaves, were each infuſed in

 three

three ounces of cold water. In the ſpace of twenty-four hours the infuſion of geum rivale was of a cheſnut colour; that of the tea had a yellowiſh hue, as had likewiſe the infuſion of roſe-leaves. The infuſion of bark was yellow, that of willow ſomewhat leſs ſo; and the water with the lichen Iſlandicus was of a violet colour with ſomewhat of a yellow tinge.

To an ounce of each of the infuſions, two drachms of a ſolution of ſalt of ſteel were added. That of geum rivale was converted into a real ink; that of roſes into a dark red; that of tea into a dark green; that of Peruvian bark into a braſſy colour; the infuſion of willow bark became of a pale blue colour, and the lichen Iſlandicus from a violet was changed into a red.

To the other two ounces of infuſion, of each of theſe articles, a drachm of beef was added, and allowed to remain in them for the ſpace of forty-eight hours. At the end of that time, the beef contained in the infuſion of lichen Iſlandicus was found to be firmer than any of the reſt; next in point of firmneſs was that immerſed in the infuſion of bark; and the piece taken from the infuſion of tea, was found to be the ſofteſt of all.

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EXPER. II.

An ounce of lichen Iſlandicus being boiled for the ſpace of a quarter of an hour in a pound of water, and afterwards ſtrained, was found to yield ſeven ounces of a bitter, red-coloured mucilage, of nearly the ſame conſiſtence as is obtained by the ſolution of one part of gum arabic in three of water. This mucilage was found to anſwer very effectually the purpoſe of uniting oil with water by means of trituration: a ſcruple of camphor was likewiſe ſuſpended in ſix ounces of water by the medium of two drachms of the mucilage; but mercury could neither be properly extinguiſhed by it, nor could wax by means of it be united with water.

EXPER. III.

This ſpecies of lichen is ſo tough and mucilaginous, that a very conſiderable heat is found neceſſary to dry it ſufficiently for pulveriſation.

An infuſion of the powder, and likewiſe an infuſion of lichen in ſubſtance, were at different times ſubjected to diſtillation in a ſand heat. The water thus obtained was moderately

rately acid; but was not in any degree changed in colour by the addition of ſalt of ſteel. No eſſential oil could be obtained by diſtillation.

EXPER. IV.

An ounce of lichen being ſix times ſtrongly boiled, and the different decoctions being all mixed and evaporated to dryneſs, five drachms and two ſcruple of an extract was obtained. This extract was of a blackiſh colour; burned violently when put into a fire; and when diſſolved in warm water afforded a very thick tough mucilage.

Lichen infuſed in rectified ſpirits of wine, afforded, on evaporation, a very ſmall quantity of reſin.

From the antiſeptic virtues of lichen, our author recommends the mucilage prepared from it, as more proper than any other, for the purpoſe of combining oils with watery liquids; By means of it, ſuch mixtures, he obſerves, are effectually prevented from becoming rancid; he preſerved ſome of thoſe, with which the preceding experiments were made, for the ſpace of fourteen weeks without any marks of putreſcency being obſerved in them.

In

In ſome of the northern kingdoms, lichen, we are told, is uſed not only as a medicine, but as an article of diet; and from the mild nutritive qualities of which it is evidently poſſeſſed, our author thinks we may account for the good effects which have lately been ſaid to be derived from it in conſumptive diſorders, and which have been confirmed by the teſtimony of many of the moſt accurate obſervers.

As the moſt agreeable and convenient form of uſing it, he recommends it firſt to be infuſed in boiling water, with a view to its being thoroughly cleaned, while by the ſame means it will be deprived of a conſiderable part of its original bitterneſs. The lichen, thus prepared, is ordered to be boiled, and the mucilage ſo obtained from it, to be uſed either as an article of diet or as a medicine; and we have it in our power, we are told, to render it exceedingly palatable, by the addition of a little white wine, when that can with propriety be given; or when wine is not admiſſible, by the addition either of milk, honey, or ſyrup of lemons.

It is recommended particularly, in all kinds of cough; and in caſes of emaciation, from whatever cauſe they may have ariſen.

II. *Ob-*

II.

Obſervations on the Blood, by William Hey, *F. R. S. Surgeon-General to the Infirmary at Leeds, and Member of the Incorporation of Surgeons in London.* *8vo.* London.

OF all the conſtituent parts of the human body, there is, perhaps, no one which can be conſidered as meriting greater attention than the blood. Yet, even from the moſt ſuperficial examination of the works of medical writers, every one muſt ſoon be ſenſible of the inattention with which they have treated this ſubject. In proof of this, Mr. Hey, in the treatiſe before us, has quoted ſome paſſages from the writings of Baron Van Sweiten, Dr. William Fordyce, and others, which contain aſſertions totally repugnant to fact. When this then is the caſe, we may conclude, that the ſubject of which our author here propoſes to treat, is by no means exhauſted, from the obſervations of former writers. But it ſeems not ſo much to be his intention in the treatiſe before us, to enter into a full conſideration of every particular reſpecting the nature of the blood, as to examine the ſentiments of ſome of the moſt highly eſteemed and lateſt writers

writers on the ſubject, particularly thoſe of Mr. Hewſon, in his Experimental Inquiry, and of Dr. Heberden in the London Medical Tranſactions.

According to our author, Dr. George Fordyce was the firſt who contended that the blood drawn in inflammatory diſeaſes, is in a more fluid ſtate, and continues longer fluid than in other caſes; and this opinion, Mr. Hewſon has ſince endeavoured to ſupport by many experiments. On this ſubject, however, Mr. Hey holds a very oppoſite doctrine; he admits, indeed, that when a ſtrong cruſt of ſize is about to be formed on the craſſamentum, the ſurface of the whole maſs becomes ſomewhat tranſparent, ſoon after it is received into the cup, before the uſual ſeparation of the ſerum takes place; and that in theſe caſes the ſurface of ſuch blood remains in a fluid ſtate much longer than it does where no ſizy cruſt is formed. But in place of ſuppoſing this fluid to be the coagulable lymph in an attenuated ſtate, and deprived of its diſpoſition to coagulation, Mr. Hey is inclined to believe, that it conſiſts of the coagulable lymph diluted with ſerum. To this opinion he is chiefly led from examining

it by itſelf after coagulation, and after ſqueezing from it, by means of preſſure, the ſerum which it contained. He admits, with Mr. Hewſon, that the blood, upon which a ſizy cruſt is found, generally looks thinner, as it flows from a vein than the blood of a healthy perſon on which there is no ſize. But this thinneſs he alſo aſcribes to an encreaſed quantity of ſerum which that blood contains, and he points out many circumſtances which ſeem to him to render it extremely doubtful, whether inflammation has any influence in thinning the blood. Perſons, he obſerves, of ſtrong athletic habits, whoſe vaſcular action approaches the neareſt to a ſtate of inflammation, are not remarked to have thin blood. In the moſt violent inflammatory diſtempers the blood does not look thin, if evacuations and dilution by watery liquids have not preceded. When the blood appears very thin in inflammatory caſes, there is a great proportion of ſerum. The craſſamentum is moſt firm and tenacious upon ſtanding, when it is taken from patients labouring under inflammatory diſeaſes; and laſtly, the blood is obſerved to be very thin in ſome diſorders which are the reverſe of inflammation. From all theſe circum-

ſtances

ſtances he infers, that the thin appearance of the blood affords no evidence that the coagulable lymph is attenuated in inflammatory diſorders.

After offering this refutation of the firſt argument employed by Mr. Hewſon to ſhew that the gluten of the blood is attenuated in caſes of inflammation; Mr. Hey next proceeds to anſwer the other arguments uſed for the ſame purpoſe; particularly thoſe which have been drawn from obſerving, that the red globules ſubſide ſooner in blood let in caſes of inflammation, than in that which is taken from an animal in health. Although he admits the truth of this circumſtance, yet he contends, that this affords no proof of the whole maſs of blood, in ſuch caſes, being thinner than the ſerum alone in others, as Mr. Hewſon alledges. In ſupport of his aſſertion, he obſerves, that the red globules are not in the ſame ſtate in the two caſes which are compared; that the fluid water which riſes to the ſurface of ſizy blood ſoon after it is let out into a cup, although it conſiſts chiefly of ſerum united with coagulable lymph, is yet thicker than ſerum alone; and laſtly, that the ſubſidence of the red globules, in the caſe of the blood drawn in

in inflammations, may, probably, be explained from the lymph, when in a fluid ſtate, having leſs affinity with the craſſamentum, than the ſerum has with the red globules.

Having thus attempted to refute the opinion which ſuppoſes, that the phenomena exhibited by the blood, in caſes of inflammation, are to be attributed to a change in the quality of the gluten; Mr. Hey next endeavours to ſhew, that theſe circumſtances are to be aſcribed to a difference in the quantity. How far this ingenious author has been as ſucceſsful in eſtabliſhing his own doctrine, as in attempting to invalidate the opinion of others, the attentive reader will beſt be able to determine, from a candid examination of the work itſelf. Without aſſuming the province of giving a dictatorial judgment on the truth or falſehood of thoſe opinions which fall under our notice, we may yet obſerve, that the arguments which he has here uſed as far from appearing to us to be perfectly concluſive. We ſhall not here, however, encroach upon the prerogative of the reader, by ſtating our own doubts, but ſhall merely content ourſelves with endeavouring to give a conciſe, yet diſtinct view of his reaſoning on this ſubject.

Mr.

Mr. Hey, with great juſtice obſerves, that when no ſize appears upon the ſurface of the craſſamentum, it has been too commonly ſuppoſed that the blood is not ſizy, and on the other hand, when ſuch a covering does exiſt, it has been without ſufficient reaſon imagined, that the blood abounds with ſize; concluſions equally erroneous, and equally detrimental, when they have any influence on the treatment of a patient's diſorder. From ſome remarks of Dr. Huxham's, which have been confirmed by his own obſervations, Mr. Hey infers, that the denſity of the craſſamentum, and the firmneſs of the ſizy covering, are greateſt in inflammatory diſeaſes. Hence he thinks, that the tendency to concretion in the blood, cannot be owing to a diminiſhed action of the blood-veſſels.

From what happens in the ſlaughter of ſheep, Mr. Hewſon had concluded, that a diminution of the vaſcular action, cauſes a more ſpeedy coagulation of the blood. Mr. Hey has alſo attended to this ſubject, and ſince the circumſtances he has obſerved, are, in a great meaſure, the reverſe of thoſe deſcribed by Mr. Hewſon, the future obſervations of others on the ſame ſubject, are ſtill neceſſary for diſco-

vering the caufe of this difference. But, according to Mr. Hey's obfervations, the blood in the firft cup was generally more fluid as it flowed, and more florid than the reft; yet it coagulated in the leaft time, had the moft firm craffamentum, and threw off the greateft quantity of ferum. That which was laft received, flowed the moft flowly, appeared the moft vifcid and dark-coloured as it flowed, was the lateft in coagulating completely, had the fofteft craffamentum, and threw off the greateft quantity of ferum.

Mr. Hey examined, in a fimilar manner, both the arterial and venal blood of calves, but the appearances were not the fame, nor did the coagulation take place in any regular manner. He obferves, that there is a remarkable difference in the appearance of the blood which is drawn at different periods of an inflammatory difeafe; that which is taken away at an early period of the diforder ufually concretes quickly with a firm tenacious mafs; which throws off little ferum and has no fizy covering; whereas that which is drawn after repeated bleedings, when the diftemper has continued feveral days, looks thinner as it flows, feparates a greater proportion of ferum, and has a ftrong coat of

fize

ſize upon its ſurface. He conſiders this variety as depending chiefly on the different proportion of ſerum; and he thinks, that in conſequence of the blood being thinned by the watery liquors which are drank plentifully in theſe diſorders, an opportunity is afforded for the particles of the coagulable lymph to unite more readily, and to aſcend to the ſurface of the craſſamentum.

It is more difficult, our author obſerves, to account for the various appearance of different portions of blood drawn at one operation. But theſe alſo, he thinks, are chiefly to be explained from differences, with reſpect to expoſure to air, from the degree of heat or cold by which the blood is acted upon, and from the materials of which the veſſel is compoſed into which it is received. If proper regard be paid to theſe circumſtances, Mr. Hey imagines, that we may be able to give a ſatisfactory ſolution of the query propoſed by Dr. Heberden, whether the ſizy covering which is often ſeen upon the blood, be of any uſe in directing the method of cure. He thinks, that although the mere appearance of ſize on the ſurface of the craſſamentum, give no certain direction reſpecting the method of cure, yet the

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quantity of ſize, found in or upon the craſſamentum, which muſt be judged of by the thickneſs, and denſity of the ſizy covering, and the tenacity of the craſſamentum conjointly, affords, when compared with the other ſymptoms of the diſeaſe, ſome uſeful information.

He conſiders the thickneſs of the ſizy covering of the blood, taken by itſelf, as affording no evidence of the quantity of coagulable lymph which enters it. For, he obſerves, that in many caſes, this ſizy covering is to be conſidered as little more than ſerum inviſcated ſo as to take a ſolid form. And accordingly, in ſome caſes, this ſizy cruſt, will, in conſequence of gentle preſſure, loſe above three fourths of its weight. Thus it appears, that in reality it contains only a very ſmall proportion of coagulable lymph; but, he thinks, that a judgment may always be formed of the proportion of coagulable lymph in blood, from the thickneſs of the ſizy coat, and firmneſs of the craſſamentum taken together. And from theſe circumſtances he concludes, that in inflammatory diſeaſes there is an encreaſe of the quantity, not a change of the quality of the gluten. While, however, it is on all hands admitted,

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that there are many different circumſtances which have effect on the ſpontaneous ſeparation of the blood, and have thus a tendency either to induce, or prevent, the appearance of a ſizy covering; ſo it muſt alſo be allowed, that the viſcidity of the craſſamentum, will be affected, not merely by the quantity of the coagulable lymph, but alſo by its nature, and by the mode of coagulation. It is, perhaps, therefore to be regretted, that this ingenious author did not endeavour to aſcertain the proportion of coagulable lymph in the blood, in different caſes, by attempting to ſeparate this part of the blood from the red globules and ſerum, and then weighing the quantity of it.

III.

D. Johann Chriſtian Gottlieb Akermanns, *abhandlung uber die kenntniſs, und hielung des Triſmus, oder des Kinnbakkenzwanges, und deſſen verſchiedenen Arten, nebſt einer geſchichte der damit verbundenen krankheiten, und den auſſichten ſie zu heilen.*

i. e.

A Treatiſe on the Knowledge and Cure of the Triſmus, or Locked Jaw, and its different Species; together with the Hiſtory of the Diſeaſes connected with it, and the Method of Cure. By Dr. Akerman. *8vo.* Nurenburg.

IN the beginning of this work, the author aſſigns his reaſons for employing the term triſmus, as the name of the diſeaſe of which he is to treat, rather than giving it the name tetanus, a term more generally uſed. He would not, he obſerves, have rejected the common appellation, had he not been to deſcribe a ſpecies of the diſtemper to which he thought it did not apply. Although the term triſmus has been by ſome conſidered as ſignifying any grating noiſe of the teeth, yet our author here uſes it, as expreſſing a convulſion of the muſcles which move the under jaw.

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Having thus defined the meaning of the term trifmus, he next proceeds to confider the different kinds of it. He is of opinion, that the moft ancient diftinction is the moft ufeful; that, viz. into the tetanus of the Greeks, or rigor nervorum of the Latins, and fpafmos of of the Greek, or convulfio of the Latins. This diftinction, which is to be found in the earlieft medical writings, is, he obferves, pointed out by nature. It is particularly followed by the Stahlian phyficians, who diftinguifhed the tetanus of the Greeks by the name of fpafmus tonicus, and the convulfio of the Latins, by that of fpafmus clonicus.

Following this diftinction, he thinks, that the firft kind of trifmus may be named the trifmus tonicus; and he confiders a fpafmodic conftriction of the mufcles, which draw the under jaw-bone to the upper, in confequence of which the jaws remain fhut, and cannot be opened, as being the conftant characteriftic of this fpecies. This is the locked jaw of the Englifh, the fpafmus maxillæ inferioris of the modern phyficians. The characteriftic of the fecond kind or trifmus clonicus, is a continual fpafmodic motion of the under jaw, owing to the mufcles which move it, being at one time

contracted by a ſpaſm, and ſoon again relaxed. This ſecond kind of the triſmus, is not, he obſerves, mentioned by any ancient phyſician, unleſs we refer to it the ſpaſmodic convulſions of the face mentioned by Hippocrates. Among the moderns, he finds no trace of it, excepting in the writings of Marcellus Donatus.

After theſe remarks, the author next proceeds to conſider the different affections referred to the heads of triſmus tonicus and clonicus. As well from its frequently occurring in practice, as from the great danger with which it is attended, he conſiders as the firſt ſpecies of the triſmus tonicus that which ariſes from wounds in any part of the body, even when they are of the ſlighteſt nature. This ſpecies, he obſerves, is more frequent in hot climates than in cold ones. He enumerates as a ſecond ſpecies, that to which new-born infants are ſubject, particularly at a determined time after birth. To a third ſpecies he gives the name of triſmus lenitus; and as this ſpecies has not been deſcribed by any practical writer, he gives the hiſtory of a caſe of it. In this caſe the diſeaſe is deſcribed as having occurred in a very ſlow and progreſſive manner, and in about three weeks it gradually and impercep-

tibly diſappeared as it had come on, without any apparent evacuation, or perceptible change in the muſcles employed in chewing. The fourth ſpecies of the triſmus tonicus he terms triſmus rheumaticus. The circumſtances connected with it evidently ſhew how far it differs from all others. It frequently ariſes from the repulſion of eruptions, from the ſtoppage of perſpiration, from the palſy, and ſimilar cauſes.

The triſmus clonicus make its appearance, he obſerves, more rarely than the tonicus. In enumerating the ſpecies of this, he mentions as the firſt, the triſmus clonicus rheumaticus, which he conſiders as having a great analogy to the triſmus tonicus rheumaticus both with reſpect to the cauſes from which it ariſes, and the degree of danger with which it is attended. To the ſecond ſpecies he gives the name of triſmus clonicus intermittens, or periodicus, in proof of the exiſtence of which, he relates the hiſtory of a caſe in which it took place.

The laſt diſtinction which our author endeavours to eſtabliſh with reſpect to this affection is into idiopathic and ſymptomatic. He is inclined to conſider thoſe as idiopathic, which, although they may at firſt ariſe from wounds, yet continue after the wound is healed with the ſame violence as before, and are fre-

frequently the caufe of death. The trifmus clonicus, he obferves, moft frequently appears as an attendant of other complaints, and may, in general, be confidered rather as fymptomatic than idopathic.

After pointing out thefe diftinctions, the author next proceeds to treat more particularly of the trifmus tonicus, and firft of that fpecies which arifes from wounds. This fpecies, he obferves, is often preceded by frequent yawning, flight cough, an uneafy oppreffion about the breaft, pain at the back part of the tongue, want of appetite, and a difagreeable fenfation in the belly. But in other cafes, without any of thefe fymptoms, the inability to open the mouth, is the very firft appearance. In general, the wound, which is the fource of all the complaints, gives very little, or rather no pain; and not unfrequently, it is completely healed up before the trifmus begins. In fome inftances, however, the difeafe, through its whole courfe is attended with very fevere pain in the wounded part. The fpafm foon becomes fo violent, that the patient is unable to fwallow any thing but liquids, and although nothing preternatural can be difcovered in the throat, yet the jaws are fo clofely fhut, that no power is able to feparate them. In fome

ſome inſtances, the ſpaſm extends to the back and other parts of the body in ſuch a manner, that the patient muſt continue motionleſs in bed. Subſultus tendinum is then a frequent circumſtance. The ſkin is ſo ſtretched over the muſcles which it covers, that it cannot, by any means, be elevated from them, as is the caſe in a ſound ſtate. The pulſe is ſlow, irregular, intermitting, and always weak; the breathing is always ſomewhat more difficult than in a ſound ſtate; but when the ſpaſm is extended to the back this difficulty is very much increaſed, and attended with a peculiar noiſe. Neither the pulſe, nor any other circumſtance, give indication of any degree of fever. On the contrary, every function of the body appears to be affected with a ſtate of torpor; for the moſt part, the countenance is pale, or of an unnatural yellow caſt, and its expreſſions indicate the anguiſh to which the patient is ſubjected. Blood drawn from a vein is very little different from that in a natural ſtate; ſometimes, however, it is obſerved to be of a clearer red colour and more ſpungy. The patient very rarely ſleeps, and when ſleep does take place, he derives very little refreſhment from it. In ſome caſes there is a ſlight eruption on the ſkin, which, however, neither

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encreafes nor diminifhes the violence of the diftemper.

The duration of this difeafe depends very much upon the conftitution of the body affected, and on the proper application of the means of cure. If it attacks one of an irritable habit and much difpofed to fpafm, it often proves fatal in a fhort time, fometimes in the fpace of three or four days; but in moft cafes, the patient is not cut off till three or four weeks from the commencement of the affection.

After having given this account of the trifmus traumaticus, our author obferves, that the trifmus rheumaticus does not differ from it in the principal circumftances. The pulfe, however, is, in general, more full and quick, and frequently what would indicate a ftate of inflammation. This difeafe ufually continues a fhorter time than the former, and the danger is lefs alarming.

In treating of the third fpecies of trifmus, which, from its frequently attacking children, has been named the trifmus infantilis; he obferves, that it is confidered as being very fatal in moft countries, but particularly in warm climates. He tells us that in Guinea, and fome other

other parts of Africa it is endemic. By the obſervations made in different counties, it appears, that children are expoſed to this diſeaſe at different periods after birth; but it principally occurs between the 9th and the 14th day. It is in very rare inſtances only that it occurs at a later period. In giving the hiſtory of this diſeaſe, he obſerves, that without any previous heat, and, in moſt inſtances, without any external cauſe, the child ſinks into a very unnatural wearineſs and ſleepineſs, attended with frequent yawnings; theſe, according to circumſtances, are accompanied ſometimes ſooner, ſometimes later, with a difficulty in moving the under jaw. This at length increaſes to ſuch a degree, that the mouth is ſo much ſhut as not to admit any food; ſometimes, although the child can open its mouth, there is a total inability to ſuck or ſwallow. The patient feels no painful ſenſation, and the belly is frequently, although not always, ſwelled, as ſome have alledged. The ſkin has a pale yellow colour, which is particularly viſible in the countenance; the eyes are confuſed, and the ſpaſms not unfrequently extend over the body, which may be conſidered as a ſymptom of approaching death. The diſeaſe ſeldom continues

nues above two, or at moſt three, days, in thoſe caſes in which it proves mortal. But when the patient recovers, it is often of longer continuance.

After theſe deſcriptions of the different ſpecies of triſmus tonicus, our author next deſcribes the triſmus clonicus, which he obſerves differs in ſo many reſpects from the former, that it may be conſidered as a different kind of ſpaſmodic diſeaſe. It is, he obſerves, leſs frequent than any of the former, and not ſo fatal. The greateſt part of thoſe who are affected with it recover. But it does not end ſo ſoon as moſt of the kinds of the triſmus tonicus. In ſome inſtances of this affection, the lower jaw is in conſtant motion without any interval; in others, there are conſiderable intermiſſions. Differences alſo occur with reſpect to the violence of the ſpaſms; but he conſiders the characterizing circumſtances as conſiſting in gnaſhing of the teeth, or motion of the under jaw.

After theſe obſervations on the hiſtory of different ſpecies of triſmus, he next makes ſome remarks on the cauſes. He obſerves, that the triſmus tonicus proceeds more frequently from wounds, than from any other

cauſe,

caufe, in temperate climates; but thefe are particularly apt to induce it when the patient is at the fame time expofed to warm and moift air. The greater the fenfibility of the wounded part, the more danger there is that the affection will prove fatal. Phyficians have in general been inclined to fuppofe, that warmth and moifture are the caufes of the trifmus infantilis. Our author, however, imagines, that fome accidental expofure to cold, occuring together with thefe, is neceffary for producing this affection.

Another caufe of the trifmus infantilis, he imagines, to be want of attention on the part of the mother with refpect to her way of living. It may, he thinks, be the effect of a fright, or any other accident, which can have influence in producing any alteration on the ftate of the milk, and thus corrupting the nourifhment of the child. He thinks that it may alfo proceed from fwaddling children too clofely, a practice, which he obferves is becoming lefs frequent.

After thefe obfervations on the caufes, he next proceeds to treat of the method of cure.

In the trifmus traumaticus, the general indications of cure which he lays down are,

1. To pay the greateft attention to the wound, and to avoid every thing which can in any degree irritate.

2. To diminifh the violence of the fpafm, both by external and internal applications.

3. To endeavour to counteract the tendency to a general tetanus till the fpafm be entirely removed.

In the trifmus rheumaticus, from whatever caufe it may arife, whether from a ftoppage of of perfpiration, or from an unnatural conftitution of the fluids, the objects principally to be aimed at are,

1. To procure fleep, and thus to encreafe perfpiration.

2. To obviate the bad confequences which may arife from a determination of fluids to the internal parts.

3. To difcharge the foreign ftagnating juices, or to lead to a depofition of them in fome proper place.

In the trifmus infantilis, he propofes the following indications.

1. To

1. To correct as much as possible any bad qualities in the milk by proper nourishment.

2. To endeavour, by internal means, when the violence of the distemper will admit of it, and when that cannot be done by external applications, to promote the usual discharges.

3. To prevent as much as possible the violence of the spasmodic affections.

After laying down these general indications, he next makes some remarks on the particular remedies which may be applied with advantage to obtain these ends.

In cases of the trismus traumaticus, where there is reason to believe that a nerve is much injured or lacerated, although not entirely ruptured; he advises, that it be completely divided. And among the internal remedies which have been employed against this affection, he puts principal confidence on the juice of poppies and opium.

In the trismus rheumaticus also, he considers the use of poppies as being of the greatest service But in those cases which proceed from the repulsion of any cutaneous eruption, he recommends mercurial friction as being a preferable remedy.

As the trifmus clonicus proceeds from nearly the fame caufes with the trifmus tonicus, the mode of treatment is not widely different. But as the difeafe is not fo violent, and the danger not fo alarming, he does not imagine that it will be found fo frequently neceffary to have recourfe to the ufe of poppies. On the contrary, in particular inftances it appeared to him to be rather productive of a bad effect. After the ufe of purgatives, confifting of rhubarb and fal. polychreft. he exhibited to his patients, in this affection, a mixture of fpirit of hartfhorn and Hoffman's anodyne water with great advantage.

He concludes his obfervations on this fubject, with pointing out the external application which may be applied with greateft advantage. And he is inclined to think, that among all thefe the beft confequences may be expected from mercurial frictions.

IV. *Ex-*

IV.

Experiments and Obſervations on Animal Heat, and and the Inflammation of combuſtible Bodies. Being an Attempt to reſolve the Phænomena into a general Law of Nature. By Adair Crawford, *A. M. 8vo. London.*

WHEN it is conſidered that the treatiſe now before us conſiſts principally of a minute detail of experiments, it will naturally be concluded that it is impoſſible for us to give, in every reſpect, a proper analyſis of it. The doctrines, however, deduced from theſe experiments, are in ſo many particulars different from the opinions generally received by modern philoſophers, that they may juſtly be conſidered as meriting particular attention; eſpecially, as they are ſupported by numerous, and theſe too, apparently, probable arguments. We ſhall, therefore, endeavour to preſent our readers with as full and diſtinct a view of Mr. Crawford's opinion as is conſiſtent with the nature of our work.

The author introduces his ſubjects by pointing out the different ſenſes in which the words

 heat

heat and *fire* have been taken. Following Dr. Irvine, the ingenious profeſſor of chemiſtry at Glaſgow, and ſome others, he adopts the term *abſolute heat*, as expreſſing the power or element, which when it is preſent to a certain degree, excites in all animals the ſenſation of heat; while ſenſible heat expreſſes the ſame power conſidered as relative to the effects which it produces. But bodies of different kinds have different capacities of containing heat, as is exemplified in the caſe of water and antimony. In theſe, therefore, the abſolute heat is different when the ſenſible heat is the ſame. And if, with many modern philoſophers, we conſider the word *fire* as expreſſing that unknown principle, which, when it is preſent to a certain degree, excites the ſenſation of heat alone; but when accumulated to a greater degree, renders itſelf obvious to the ſight and touch, or produces heat accompanied with light, it ſignifies the ſame thing with abſolute heat.

Having premiſed theſe remarks, he next preſents the reader with a view of the general facts upon which the experiments are founded. Heat, he obſerves, is contained in great quantities in all bodies when at the common temperature of the atmoſphere. It has a conſtant

ten-

tendency to diffuſe itſelf over all bodies, till they are brought to the ſame degree of ſenſible heat. And if the parts of the ſame homogeneous body have the ſame degree of ſenſible heat, the quality of abſolute heat which they contain will be in proportion to their bulk, or quantity of matter.

He conſiders the mercurial thermometer as being an accurate meaſure of the comparative quantities of abſolute heat, which are communicated to the ſame homogeneous bodies, or ſeparated from them, as long as ſuch bodies continue in the ſame form; that is, if the ſenſible heat of a body, as meaſured by the mercurial thermometer, be diminiſhed one half, one third, or in any given proportion, the abſolute heat will be diminiſhed in the ſame proportion. But the comparative quantities of abſolute heat, which are communicated to different bodies, or ſeparated from them, cannot be determined in a direct manner by the thermometer.

After having premiſed theſe general facts, the author proceeds, in the ſecond ſection, to lay before the reader his own experiments on animal heat, and on the inflammation of combuſtible bodies. He obſerves, that experi-

 ments

ments for determining the comparative quantities of abſolute heat in bodies, are liable to inaccuracy from different cauſes; particularly from the eſcape of heat into the air during the time requiſite for mixture; from the mutual communication of heat between the veſſel and the mixture; and from the difference which is often obſervable between the heat at the ſurface and at the bottom of the mixture. After pointing out the precautions by which inaccuracies from theſe ſources may beſt be avoided, he next preſents us with the relation of his experiments for determining the abſolute heat of the moſt common vegetable and animal ſubſtances compared with water. As an example of the method in which theſe experiments were conducted, we ſhall give a detail of the firſt in his own words, and mention merely the reſult of the ſucceeding ones.

EXPERIMENT I.

Air in the room	——	69
A pound of wheat	——	66
A pound of water	——	166

The mixture being agitated for a ſhort time the temperature at the end of,

1 mi-

	Surface.	Bottom.	Medium.
1 minute was —	138 —	128 —	133
2 ——	134 —	125 —	$129\frac{1}{2}$
3 ——	131 —	122 —	$126\frac{1}{2}$
4 ——	127 —	120 —	$123\frac{1}{2}$

The mean temperature of the mixture at the end of one minute was 133, at the end of two minutes $129\frac{1}{2}$, at the end of three minutes $126\frac{1}{2}$. The heat carried off by the air in the firſt minute, being calculated according to Sir Iſaac Newton's rule, was nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$. If we add this to 133, we ſhall have $136\frac{1}{2}$ for the true temperature of the mixture. It was proved that the capacity of the veſſel for receiving heat was to that of water, as 1 to $12\frac{1}{3}$. In the experiment which we are now conſidering, the veſſel was raiſed from 66 to 133, or 67.5, dividing this by $12\frac{1}{3}$, we have nearly 5.5 for the quotient. From this it appears, that the water was cooled by the veſſel 5.5, or the veſſel ſeparated 5.5 degrees from the water. The true temperature of the mixture was $136\frac{1}{2}$, ſubtracting this from 166, we have $29\frac{1}{2}$ for the remainder. The water was therefore cooled $29\frac{1}{2}$ by the wheat and the veſſel together. But it was cooled 5.5 by the veſſel. It was there-

 fore

fore cooled 24 by the wheat. But the wheat was raiſed from 66 to 136½, or 70.5. It follows that the ſame quantity of heat which will change the temperature of water 24, will change that of wheat 70½. Therefore the abſolute heat of water is to that of wheat as 70½ to 24, or very nearly as 2.9 to 1.

From ſimilar experiments he determines the comparative heat of water to be to that of oats as 2⅓ to 1; of water to barley as 2.4. to 1; of water to beans as 1.6 to 1; of water to the lungs of a ſheep as 1.3 to 1; of water to milk as 1.1. to 1; and of a mixture of venous and arterious blood to water as 25 to 24.4. Without pretending to enter into the inquiry how far the method here employed for determining the abſolute heat of bodies, can, in any caſe, lead to a certain concluſion, we may yet obſerve, that one obvious objection occurs to all the experiments as here related. The different articles, which were the ſubject of them, were tried in very different circumſtances. Thus, for example, wheat was tried with the air in the room at 69, and the water added to it was at 166. Barley was tried with the air of the room at 60, and the water added to it

was

was at 160. While again, to determine the abſolute heat of blood, that fluid was taken at 98, and the water added to it was at 47 degrees only; and in this trial half a pound only of each of the fluids were employed, while in all the former ones, a pound of each of the ſubſtances had been uſed. How far experiments, thus eſſentially differing from each other, can be a proper foundation for any calculation, future trials muſt determine. But it would certainly have been much more ſatiſfactory to every reader, who has no opportunity of repeating the experiments, that the different ſubſtances, whoſe abſolute heat is compared, had been tried in preciſely the ſame circumſtances.

Theſe experiments, however, Mr. Crawford imagines in general prove, that fleſh, milk, and vegetables, contain leſs abſolute heat than water; and that water contains leſs than blood. Blood, therefore, he concludes, contains a greater quantity of abſolute heat than the principles of which it is compoſed. The remarkable accumulation of heat in this fluid, led him to ſuſpect, that it abſorbs heat from the air in the proceſs of reſpiration; and in this ſuſpi-

ſuſpicion he was confirmed by the following conſiderations.

1. That thoſe animals which are furniſhed with lungs, and which continually inſpire the freſh air in great quantities, have the power of keeping themſelves at a temperature conſiderably higher than the ſurrounding atmoſphere; but that animals which are not furniſhed with reſpiratory organs, are very nearly of the ſame temperature with the medium in which they live.

2. That among the hot animals thoſe are the warmeſt which have the largeſt reſpiratory organs, and which, conſequently, breathe the greateſt quantity of air in proportion to their bulk. Thus the reſpiratory organs of birds, compared with their ſize, are more extenſive than thoſe of other animals, and birds have the greateſt degree of animal heat.

3. That in the ſame animal, the degree of heat, is, in ſome meaſure, proportionable to the quantity of air inſpired in a given time. Thus animal heat is encreaſed by exerciſe, and by whatever accelerates reſpiration.

In farther confirmation of this doctrine, our author endeavours to demonſtrate by experiment, the following propoſitions.

1. That

1. That aſmoſpherical air contains a greater quantity of abſolute heat than the air which is expired from the lungs of animals; and that the quantity of abſolute heat contained in any kind of air which is fit for reſpiration, is very nearly in proportion to its purity, or to its power of ſupporting animal life.

2. That the blood which paſſes from the lungs to the heart by the pulmonary vein, contains more abſolute heat than that which paſſes from the heart to the lungs, by the pulmonary artery.

3. That the capacities of bodies for containing heat are diminiſhed by the addition of phlogiſton, and encreaſed by the ſeparation of this principle.

For a view of the experiments by which he attempts to demonſtrate theſe propoſitions, we muſt refer our readers to the work itſelf. And in order to afford full conviction on this ſubject, not only a candid peruſal of what is related by this ingenious author, but a repetition of the experiments alſo, both in the manner performed by Mr. Crawford, and in circumſtances ſomewhat different, would ſeem to be neceſſary.

But

But after endeavouring, in the ſecond ſection to eſtabliſh theſe important facts, he proceeds in the third to offer an explanation of animal heat, and of the heat which is produced by the inflammation of burning bodies. His opinion reſpecting the cauſe of animal heat, is, that it depends upon a proceſs ſimilar to a chemical elective attraction. The air is received into the lungs, containing a great quantity of abſolute heat; the blood is returned from the extremities highly impregnated with phlogiſton; the attraction of the air to the phlogiſton is greater than that of the blood. This principle will therefore leave the blood to combine with the air. By the addition of the phlogiſton, the air is obliged to depoſit a part of its abſolute heat, and as the capacity of the blood is, at the ſame moment encreaſed by the ſeparation of the phlogiſton, it will inſtantly unite with that portion of heat which had been detached from the air. In this manner he ſuppoſes the blood to acquire abſolute heat.

He next obſerves, that from Dr. Prieſtley's experiments, with reſpect to reſpiration, it appears, that the arterial blood has a ſtrong attraction

traction to phlogiſton; it will, conſequently, he thinks, during the circulation, imbibe this principle from thoſe parts which retain it with leaſt force, or from the putreſcent parts of the ſyſtem. And hence the venous blood when it returns to the lungs is found to be highly impregnated with phlogiſton. By this impregnation, its capacity for containing heat is diminiſhed; in proportion, therefore, as the blood, which had been dephlogiſticated by the proceſs of reſpiration, becomes again combined with phlogiſton, in the courſe of circulation, it will gradually give out that heat which it had received in the lungs, and diffuſe it over the whole ſyſtem. Thus, according to our author, in reſpiration the blood is continually diſcharging phlogiſton, and abſorbing heat; and, in the courſe of circulation, it is continually imbibing phlogiſton, and emitting heat.

He concludes from his experiments, that atmoſpherical air contains much abſolute heat; that when it is converted into fixed and phlogiſticated air, the greater part of this heat is detached, and that the capacities of bodies for containing heat are diminiſhed by the addition of phlogiſton, and encreaſed by the ſeparation

of

of it. Hence he infers, that the heat which is produced by combuſtion, is derived from the air, and not from the inflammable body. Thus his doctrine upon the whole is, that atmoſpherical air contains in its compoſition a great quantity of fire. By the ſeparation of a portion of this fire in the lungs, it ſupports the temperature of the arterial blood, and thus communicates that pabulum vitæ, which is ſo eſſential to the preſervation of the animal kingdom. And finally, by a ſimilar proceſs, it maintains thoſe natural and artificial fires, which are excited by the inflammation of combuſtible bodies.

Having delivered this doctrine, he next proceeds to explain on this hypotheſis the principal facts relating to animal heat, and the inflammation of combuſtible bodies. On the former of theſe ſubjects, he endeavours to ſhew why breathing animals have a higher temperature than thoſe who are not furniſhed with reſpiratory organs; why the animal body has, in certain ſituations, the power of producing cold, or of keeping itſelf at a lower temperature than the ſurrounding medium; why, among different animals, thoſe are the hotteſt which breathe the greateſt quantity of air; why

why, in the ſame animal, the degree of heat at different periods, is, in ſome meaſure, proportioned to the quantity of air inhaled in a given time; and finally, why topical inflammations are accompanied with unuſual heat? But the limits of our publication will neither allow of our offering any view of theſe, nor of ſuggeſting our doubts with reſpect to them.

For the ſame reaſon alſo, we cannot pretend to follow him in the ſolution which he gives of the principal facts relating to the combuſtion of inflammable bodies. We ſhall, therefore, conclude this ſubject, by preſenting our readers with the account he gives of volcanos, which afford us examples of, perhaps, the moſt tremendous phenomena in nature exhibited by fire.

It is found, he obſerves, by experiment, that the phænomena of an earthquake may be imitated by a mixture of iron filings and brimſtone, made into a paſte with water, and buried in the earth. This, he thinks, may be accounted for in the following manner. The attraction of phlogiſton to the acid of ſulphur will be diminiſhed both by the attraction of iron to this acid, and by that of water.

In

In the degree of heat, which is neceſſary to the inflammation of ſulphur, atmoſpherical air is capable of ſeparating the phlogiſton from the vitriolic acid. And Mr. Crawford thinks it probable, that by the aſſiſtance of the iron and the water, it may be capable of producing this effect in the common temperature of the atmoſphere. If this be the caſe, it follows, that by the action of the air, which is diffuſed through the ſubſtance of the earth, upon the phlogiſton of the ſulphur, and by that of the iron and water upon the acid, the ſulphur will be decompoſed; the air will unite with the phlogiſton, the iron with the acid, a quantity of fire will be diſengaged from the former, and an inflammable elaſtic fluid from the latter; and hence a commotion will be excited, accompanied with noiſe, and the eruption of a flame reſembling the phænomena of an earthquake.

May not, ſays he, a ſimilar mixture of ſulphureous and metallic bodies be produced in conſequence of the changes which take place in the bowels of the earth? May not theſe bodies be brought into contact with the water and atmoſpherical air which are diffuſed through the earth's ſubſtance, or lodged in cavities beneath

beneath its furface. By the action of the air upon the phlogifton, and of the water and the ore upon the acid, may not the fulphur be decompofed as in the mixture of iron filings and brimftone. In this cafe, a quantity of fire will be difengaged, and an elaftic vapour produced; the latter of which, by its fudden expanfion, will excite a commotion in the bowels of the earth; and will, at length force its way through the fuperincumbent ftrata.

If much combuftible matter be lodged in regions where the fubterraneous fires have been kindled, and if this matter be mixed with atmofpherical air, or with fubftances, which, by the application of heat, produce a fluid which is capable of maintaining fire, the inflammation may be augmented to a prodigious degree; and the rarified vapours may carry along with them in their afcent, a great quantity of ignited materials abounding with phlogifton; by the expofure of which the phlogifton will be difcharged, and the flame extended through a large tract of air. In this manner, he thinks, we may account for volcanos, thofe awful inftances of combuftion, which are exhibited by nature in the foffil kingdom. And upon the

he concludes, that a variety of important facts are produced in the universe, in consequence of the mutual opposition of fire and phlogiston.

How far future experiments, and solid reasoning will serve to confirm or refute this hypothesis, we cannot take upon us to determine. But from the ingenuity and judgment with which the author has supported it, as well as from the importance of the subject, it may justly be considered as meriting particular attention. And if the doctrine which Mr. Crawford has proposed, and has with so much ability supported, shall be confirmed by the observations of others, it will afford a new and most extensive field of investigation for every philosophical inquirer.

VI.

Observations sur le Contrepoison du Sublime Corrosif, par. M. Dumonceau, *Medecin Pensionnaire de la Ville de Tournai & des Hopitaux. Vide Journal de Medecin.* 12*mo. Paris* 1778.

THE dreadful effects which have not unfrequently been observed to result from corrosive sublimate, render it an object of very great

great importance to practitioners to be acquainted with antidotes, by which the influence of this poison may be most effectually counteracted. And these particularly deserve notice, when from trials, in actual practice, they have been found to be attended with success. In a case, treated by Mr. Dumonceau, such a favourable termination was happily obtained by means of the timely use of sal absinthii.

A man of a robust habit of body, and sanguine temperament, in the fortieth year of his age, took one evening, about ten o'clock, a considerable quantity of corrosive sublimate, which happened to be in his house, and which had been procured for poisoning rats. He swallowed it, after mixing it in a glass of beer. The instant after he had had taken it, his mouth, œsophagus, and stomach, were very much affected by its caustic powers. Inflammation of the mouth, and a burning heat in the region of the stomach, attended with excruciating pain, soon succeeded to the first impression of the corrosive sublimate. These feelings were quickly propagated through the whole intestinal canal, and were there attended with as severe pains as those of the stomach.

 Soon

Soon after, his countenance was very much ſwelled, and became of a crimſon red colour, and his eyes were ſparkling. He was affected with anxiety about the præcordia, with inquietude and conſtant toſſing. Amidſt theſe ſymptoms, his pulſe became feveriſh and ſmall. In this ſituation, an emetic was given him in a glaſs of water, but it had little effect in producing vomiting, and the pains, which were before very violent, ſeemed to be augmented.

When the patient was in this ſituation, Mr. Dumonceau was called in, who, with the view of decompoſing the metallic ſalt, immediately exhibited to this patient, a dram of the ſalt of wormwood, in a glaſs of water. He ſubjoined to it alſo the uſe of inſpiſſants, with the view of involving the acid particles. Upon theſe meaſures the pains were ſomewhat abated, yet they returned at intervals with great ſeverity, and ſymptoms occurred which ſeemed to threaten a corroſion of the internal membrane of the ſtomach and inteſtines; for the matters diſcharged by ſtool were obſerved to be tinged with blood. Yet Mr. Dumonceau, as well as Mr. Planchen, who was alſo called in, agreed in the propriety of continuing the medicine; and, accordingly, two drams

drams of the ſal abſinthii, in two ounces of incraſſant decoction, were exhibited to him. From this he felt very diſtinctly conſiderable relief; and although the pains returned from time to time with violence, yet they became by degrees more eaſy, and by the next morning, a calm had, as it were, ſucceeded to the ſtorm. All the alarming ſymptoms had now diſappeared, but there ſtill remained a painful ſenſation through the whole tract of the alimentary canal, and the patient complained of general weakneſs and laſſitude.

The author, after giving this detail of the caſe, which had thus a happy termination, ſubjoins a few remarks on this ſubject. He obſerves, that a knowlege of chemical affinities points out the propriety of this practice. The fixed alkali, by its attraction to the muriatic acid, the union of which with mercury forms corroſive ſublimate, quickly combines with this acid. Upon this, one part of the mercury is precipitated in the form of a mercurial calx, and the other part is reduced to the ſtate of mercurius dulcis. But neither mercurius dulcis, nor calx of mercury, in a ſmall quantity, are highly pernicious to the ani-

animal œconomy. From the union again of the fixed alkali with the marine acid, which also takes place, a febrifuge salt is formed, from which no danger can be apprehended.

VII.

Traitement d'une Affection Soporeuse, par M. Boyer, *Med. Correspond. de la Societé Royal de Medecine. Vid. Gazette de Santé Année* 1778. 4*to.* Paris.

MR. Boyer introduces his observation on the singular and alarming case which he has here related, by remarking, that he puts very little confidence on specifics in general, and least of all on those which are highly extolled. For this very circumstance is sufficient, he thinks, to render them suspected. Notwithstanding these general sentiments, however, he reckons it but justice to give a fair and candid account of what passed under his own observation, respecting the use of the volatile alkali fluor, which has of late been highly celebrated at Paris in all the public papers.

A young woman, in the eighteenth year of her age, of a delicate habit of body, and, in some degree, subjected to rachitis; being upon a visit

visit to a relation was, about three in the afternoon, suddenly attacked with violent convulsions. These were attended with foaming at the mouth, and total loss of sense. In this situation she was put into bed, and Mr. Boyer was sent for. Before he came, the convulsive motions had entirely ceased; he found the pulse of his patient regular but weak. Her extremities were cold, and she was affected with a sound sleep, from which she could not, by any means, be rouzed.

The symptoms which were described to him, he considered as indicating an epileptic fit. But he was informed, that she had never before been affected with any thing which could give the least suspicion of that disease. He was told also, that the evening before she had passed some worms, and had eat at dinner a considerable quantity of chesnuts.

After the use of several external stimuli, commonly employed in such circumstances, without effect, he judged it necessary to exhibit a vomit. This was given her from a spoon, but not without a good deal of difficulty, her teeth being very close together. The vomit produced violent straining, but was accompanied with very little evacuation. It had, however, no influence in the removal of her state of torpor.

He then employed, in ſucceſſion, irritating clyſters, and a variety of antihyſteric medicines, with no better effect. At length, on the third day from the attack, a large bliſter was applied between her ſhoulders. The bliſter roſe well, and during its action ſhe was obſerved to ſigh, but gave no other ſign of ſenſibility.

All theſe meaſures having proved fruitleſs, and the affection having now continued to the fifth day, the torpor and other apoplectic ſymptoms being nothing diminiſhed, and the pulſe becoming more weak, he reſolved upon a trial of the volatile alkali fluor, which he conſiders, however, as nothing elſe than the volatile ſpirit of ſal ammoniac, which has for a very long time been commonly uſed in medicine in ſimilar caſes. Almoſt immediately after the firſt ſpoonful, the patient was evidently much agitated, and cried out, ſhe was poiſoned, and muſt inſtantly have ſome water. Cold water was given her, but ſoon after taking it ſhe fell into the ſame ſtupor as before. Next morning another doſe was given her, the immediate effect of which was the ſame as the evening before; but with this difference, that after being rouſed from the ſtupor, it did not again return. The

patient

patient complained only of pain of her head, which, however, gradually left her, and she soon recovered her former health.

Having given this relation of the case, Mr. Boyer next states some queries on this subject. He asks, how the volatile alkali can here be supposed to act. Does it operate, says he, as a specific? Did it remove the cause of the complaint? But what was the cause? And whatever it was, could it be supposed to be destroyed in an instant? It can hardly, he thinks, be here supposed to have operated as a stimulus, since before that, he had employed stimulants both externally and internally, frictions, emetics, blisters, &c. without any good effect. He concludes with observing, that whatever may be the case, and however decisive this fact may appear in favour of the volatile alkali, yet as he had before the misfortune to entertain doubts with regard to its efficacy, and as he thinks it not impossible that the other remedies may have contributed to the success, he promises to take the first opportunity of repeating this practice in similar cases. And it is to be hoped that he will communicate the result of his trials to the public.

SECT.

SECT. II.

Medical Obſervations,

I.

A Caſe of Hydrocephalus, by Dr. Robert Butler Remmett, *Phyſician at Plymouth.*

IT is exceedingly to be lamented that, in a ſcience of ſo much importance to mankind as is that of medicine, concluſions are frequently formed at random, and thus handed down from century to century, without the ſmalleſt inquiry into the arguments by which they may be ſupported. When we have at laſt, however, been induced by accident, or ſome more laudable motive, to examine the grounds of our opinions, we have too often had

had abundant reafon to regret our former negligence, and wonder at the ignorance with which we have fo long perfifted in the moft dangerous practices. The prefent approved method of treating the fmall-pox, and feveral other diforders, would fufficiently evince the truth of this obfervation; but I have been more particularly led to it by a cafe of hydrocephalus, for which I was lately confulted. The event was indeed fatal, but as the diforder is not very common, and the method of treatment is new, and contrary to the exprefs prohibition of fome other phyficians, I think it my duty to offer it to the faculty, and fhall be very happy if thefe curfory obfervations lead fome more able practitioners to improve upon the hints I fhall now throw out to them.

A. B. was born, after a natural labour, Auguft 9, 1778, and being examined, was found to have a very large head, with the futures of the cranium very open, and an evident fluctuation of fome fluid within it. From this time, to the age of two months, the diforder advanced very confiderably, and then I was confulted, and found, befides the former fymptoms, the eyes of the child much protruded, and ftarting, as it were, from the head.

head. In every other respect she was perfectly healthy, and a very strong girl.

The gradual progress of the disorder, the fluctuation of a fluid at the sutures of the cranium, and the absence of every anasarcous appearance, left me no doubt that there was an accumulation of water between the dura and pia mater.

To discover a probable method of cure was not so easy a matter; but having learnt from a similar, as well as from the present case, that little or nothing was to be expected from all the ordinary remedies of dropsy, and that no relief could be obtained from the application of blisters, which appeared to me to be the most probable means of cure, I determined, in conjunction with Mr. J. Woolcombe, an excellent surgeon of this town, to try what might be done by a cautious and gradual extraction of the water. Having chosen a place, at the opening of the sutures, where we might be sure to avoid the sinusses of the dura mater, and have a depending orifice, a small puncture was carefully made with a lancet, and ten ounces of a clear pellucid fluid were drawn off the first time, which was on the 7th of October.

To

To obviate any inconvenience that might have ariſen from leſſening the preſſure on the brain, we kept our hands conſtantly and equally applied all over the head during the operation, and afterwards rolled on a tight bandage. This being a new operation, we thought it neceſſary to obſerve the greateſt caution, and were therefore unwilling to take off more than ten ounces, till we might be enabled to form a better judgment of the conſequences, but as the child was not, in the ſmalleſt degree, diſordered by the evacuation, we afterwards determined to repeat it from time to time, as circumſtances might require.

On the 9th of October we accordingly took off twelve ounces more; and on the 12th fourteen ounces; by this time the ſutures were cloſe, and the appearance of the head was almoſt natural, our little patient being ſtill in good health. The ſecretion in this, as in moſt other dropſical affections, went on, however, in ſpite of the evacuation; but it was not till the 9th of November that we thought it neceſſary to make another puncture, and as the head was then but moderately enlarged, we drew off only twelve ounces. By the 7th of Decem-

December, the disease had made a more rapid progress, and then we drew off thirty-two ounces before the head could be reduced to a natural appearance; the child was all this while perfectly healthy, and continued so till the 24th of December, when, without any apparent reason, *at the distance of seventeen days from the last operation*, she suddenly fell into an atrophy, in which she lingered to the 4th of January, when she died.

It was particularly fortunate for me that her death did not happen sooner; but as it may yet be suspected that her end was hastened by my treatment of her, and the consequent admission of air to the tender meninges of the brain, I think it necessary to assure my readers that the puncture being made in the most simple manner was always found again, and scarce visible after a day or two, and never discovered the slightest appearance of inflammation. So little reason is there to imagine that the wound was ever productive of any bad effects; but every idea of this kind must be totally removed by the subsequent dissection, from which it appeared that there was not the least trace of any previous inflammation. But that my patient had so many other evils to encounter, that it was truly wonderful she could live and thrive so long.

The

The next morning after her death, being permitted to inspect her head, we found, to our great astonishment, the whole cavity of the cranium full of this clear, pellucid fluid, of which we collected about two quarts. The dura mater, with its processes, was entire; but we could not at first discover any appearance of brain, and after the most minute examination, we could only trace the medulla oblongata descending into the spine; and behind the orbits of the eyes a very small quantity of a medullary substance, indistinctly resembling that of the brain; what we saw, however, was quite entire, and covered by the pia mater, and I have already remarked, that the fluid was perfectly clear and pellucid, so we had not the least reason to adopt the opinion of Morgagni, who endeavours to prove that in all such cases the absence of brain must have arisen from its dissolution in the preternatural fluid contained in the cranium.

In Bonetus, as well as in Morgagni, similar dissections are to be met with. It is not, therefore, to excite the astonishment of my readers, or because I suppose this to be a new case, that I relate it. My only wish is to call the attention of the faculty to this very important disease; that

that by repeated diffections it may be known in what ftate the cavity of the cranium is generally found, in thofe who die of this fpecies of hydrocephalus. Should it often appear as I faw it, every idea of cure muft be banifhed from our thoughts; but fhould it on the contrary be happily difcovered, that mine was an an unfavourable cafe, and that the brain itfelf is not fo materially difordered in moft inftances of this difeafe, I think I have fhewn that the evacuation of the water is perfectly fafe, and that it may as eafily be made as by the common paracentefis of the abdomen.

How far the laft operation is itfelf proper has, indeed, been doubted by fome; but if there has been a fingle cure promoted by it, (and many fuch may, I am fure be produced) fhould we not be much more inclined to have recourfe to a fimilar operation, in a difeafe, the confequences of which are idiotifm, and a train of evils, the greateft and moft deplorable to which humanity is fubject.

II.

The History of a singular Case of Rabies Canina terminating favourably, by the late James Tilton, *M. D. of Dover-County, on the Delaware; communicated to Dr.* Duncan *by Mr.* William Grisley, *Student of Medicine.*

IN June last, I visited Mrs. K: aged forty-seven years; she had been in June, eighteen years before that, bit by a mad dog; her husband being a physician, immediately scarified the slight wound in her ancle made by the dog's tooth, and applied a caustic to it. He gave her also such medicines as he thought best. During his life-time, for seventeen years after the accident, the wound on her leg frequently broke out into a running sore, especially every spring of the year; he always promoted the discharge from the wound by proper digestives; until it inclined to heal up of itself, and then he would let it cicatrize, and besides this, every spring he took some blood and gave her a mercurial purge or two.

After his death, these precautions being neglected, the first spring (or rather early in the

fummer) following, the parts about the cicatrix fwelled and grew painful, but did not break out into a running wound. She bathed her leg in fome warm bath, but omitted the bleeding and phyfic fhe had been ufed to in the fpring-time. Soon after, fhe found herfelf ftrangely difordered in a manner fhe could not defcribe; but fo as to make her very reftlefs and uneafy, and affected her mind with a kind of fearfulnefs and diftrefs, that was altogether unaccountable. This had not lafted above a day or two before fhe awoke in the night, raving mad with a frothing at the mouth, frequent convulfions about the ftomach, throat, and face, and the moft horrible dread of water. She was found in this condition about one o'clock in the morning, on the 19th of June laft, when the two moft adjacent phyficians being called in, a bliftering plafter was applied to the old cicatrix, and fhe was blooded to the quantity of fixteen ounces; but as fhe was incapable of fwallowing any thing, no more was done for her at this time.

Blooding moderated her raving; but fo far was her mind from being reftored to right reafon, that the night following, fhe broke away from her attendants, ftripped herfelf naked, and

and ran out into the fields. It happened, however, to rain that night, and her abhorrence of the water forced her to return to the houſe again where ſhe continued, to appearance, very mad, and very fearful, till day-light, none of the family daring to approach her for fear of injury. As ſoon as it was light, ſhe ſet off for the woods moſt adjacent, but being purſued by ſome women they took her, put a ſhift on her, and tied her down in bed.

On the 21ſt of the month above mentioned, happening to be in the neighbourhood, I viſited her out of curioſity rather than from the expectation of doing her any ſervice. I found her in a reſtleſs agony, that went off with convulſions about the ſtomach, throat, and face, which occaſioned ſeveral mouthfuls of a frothy ſaliva to be put out involuntarily. After this, ſhe had an interval of reaſon, in which ſhe could talk rationally, though much diſturbed by an uncommon anxiety, which ſhe ſaid, could not be deſcribed; and thus exacerbations and remiſſion of her diſorder returned one after another continually, ſhe had not ſo much as ſwallowed her ſpittle ſince the 19th; and to uſe her own expreſſion, had not even the motion of ſwallowing; her countenance appeared

 florid

florid and ſanguine, her reſpiration quick and laborious, her pulſe full, and but little more quick than natural; her tongue was much ſwelled, and a frothy matter reſted conſtantly about her lips, which ſhe ſpit careleſsly about on every ſide. She could not bear the name of water to be mentioned to her by any other perſon, though ſhe would ſometimes cry out, Water, herſelf. The ſight of a ſpoon, or the noiſe of the well-pole, would throw her into convulſions. She would ſometimes complain vehemently of thirſt, and call for water; but when the cup was offered, ſhe would fall into convulſive agonies, with ravings. I happened to mention warm bath as a ſuitable remedy; ſhe inſtantly cried out, Don't mention water, oh! water, water, terrible water; ſcreamed in the moſt hideous manner, was convulſed all over, put out mouthfuls of frothy ſaliva, and calmed again. All theſe actions ſeemed to be involuntary. In her intervals of reaſon, ſhe would beg the by-ſtanders to keep off from her, for her inclination was good to hurt any of them ſhe could.

Both the other phyſicians who had ſeen her, plainly diſcovered their deſpondency of her recovery; and the patient was ſtill farther convinced

vinced of certain death, by what her huſband had told her in his life-time, in whom ſhe profeſſed implicit faith. I therefore found it a fruitleſs taſk to perſuade her to uſe any remedies whatever, until an old friend of mine, diſtinguiſhed by his benevolence above all his good qualities, called at the houſe in conſequence of my viſit, which he had heard of. He related a caſe from the London Magazine, in which the patient was recovered from a dreadful hydrophobia, by falling from a high place, wounding the temporal artery, and bleeding almoſt to death; he, therefore, earneſtly recommended a large bleeding, and I took occaſion, at the ſame time to obſerve, that a doubtful remedy was better than none. By the good old man's importunity, rather than my reaſoning, ſhe at length conſented to be blooded, and I immediately took between 20 or 30 ounces. From the time the blood began to run, ſhe became calm, and by the evening, without any other help, was able to drink ſome milk, which, however, ſhe choſe to be ſour rather than freſh.

Next morning (the 22d) I viſited her again, and found her quite calm and ſenſible; ſhe had no raving fits ſince the day before, had been

rarely convulſed, and that in a ſlight degree; and what was more pleaſing than all the reſt, ſhe was able to drink ſour whey, though ſhe did not like to hear of water. There was now no froth about her mouth, ſhe breathed eaſily and naturally while quiet, but ſeemed a little agitated with a kind of panting after talking; which, ſhe ſaid, gave her pain. The ſwelling of her tongue had gone down, but ſhe complained of a burning heat in her ſtomach; her pulſe was rather ſmaller but not quicker than natural.

Being now encouraged to hope for longer life, ſhe conſented to whatever ſhould be adviſed. Several of the faculty being preſent, we ſoon agreed that bleeding ſhould be repeated, which I immediately performed ad deliquum; after this a bolus of five grains of calomel was given, to be purged off with an ounce of Glauber's ſalts, diſſolved in ſour whey, an hour afterwards; but the ſalts being rejected by her ſtomach, a doſe of jalap, in the form of a bolus, was ſubſtituted. This occaſioned her firſt to vomit a quantity of green ſlimy matter, and afterwards purged her. After the purge, an anodyne bolus of opium, camphor, and caſtor, was directed, but none

of her attendants would prevail on her to take it; for ſhe ſaid opium always diſagreed with her, and her huſband had altogether diſapproved of her taking it ſome time before his death. Mercurial frictions were alſo adviſed, and a plaſter of galbanum and opium to be applied to her throat and jaws, and theſe were done accordingly. The wound on her leg was renewed by a bliſter, and dreſſed with an ointment gently eſcharotic, to promote the diſcharge from it. The patient being at a conſiderable diſtance from my place of reſidence, I did not ſee her again till the 24th, I then found her ſo calm and reaſonable it was unneceſſary to confine her. She complained of great weakneſs and lowneſs of ſpirits, a ſickneſs at ſtomach, and the burning heat continued, but lower down in her bowels. She had no appetite, and what little whey ſhe took (which was the only food ſhe had taken ſince the 22d) lay heavy on her ſtomach. She was now and then ſeized with a convulſive ſob or two, and ſlight ſpaſms of the muſcles of the head and eyes, eſpecially if ſhe talked much, which alſo occaſioned the panting in her breath above mentioned. Her pulſe was weak and ſmall. The ſmall quantity of mercury, directed on the

22d, had made her mouth ſore, and cauſed her to ſpit a little. She appeared to the attendants to ſleep moderately, but ſhe declared ſhe had no good ſound ſleep, that her imagination was always diſturbed, and that ſhe had a ſtrange propenſity to think ſhe ſhould be better, and even well, if ſhe could get into the woods alone.

It was now earneſtly recommended to her, that ſhe ſhould ſup frequently of any liquid nouriſhment, ſhe moſt approved off, at leaſt every hour; that a glyſter of decoct. alth. vinegar and oil, with a little nitre, ſhould be adminiſtred night and morning; and if ſhe could not venture to take opium by the mouth, that ſixty drops of liquid laudanum ſhould be added to the evening gliſter. By help of the mercurial friction, the preſent degree of ſpitting was to be kept up, a plaſter of Ther. Venet. was ordered to the ſtomach, and in caſe a delirium ſhould happen, bleeding was adviſed.

On the 29th, I viſited her again, and found the glyſters before directed had been altogether neglected through a miſtaken modeſty; and the reſt of our advice had not been much more regarded; a little of the mercurial oint-

ment

ment had been once or twice rubbed on, and the plaster of Venice treacle was applied to her stomach, but this last being suspected for a delirium that came on soon after, it was exchanged for some pounded rue. After this, she again fell into a slight delirium, but was instantly relieved by bleeding. Her son, who blooded her, told me, her blood appeared blacker, or darker coloured, than in either of the former bleedings, but that a considerable portion of it changed into serum upon standing. He also gave her some assa fœtida and castor, which seemed to have a good effect upon her spirits.

Notwithstanding her neglect of drinking freely, and most of the advice given at my preceeding visit, except bleeding, she now appeared quite composed, without any of her convulsive sobs, or the least spasmodic affection, though she said these troubled her sometimes at night. Her abhorrence of water was now quite gone, so that she could drink it without any emotion. She, however, still felt some degree of that burning uneasiness in her bowels, complained of a lowness and oppresspression of spirits, and that her mind was still liable to fearfulness and strange impressions of imagi-

imagination, which ſhe had not the power to controul.

After remonſtrating againſt her negligence, I adviſed a repetition of three grains of merc. dulc. over night, to be purged off next morning with ſome ſenna and ſalts; that ſhe ſhould ſup more frequently and plentifully of ſome liquid nouriſhment than ſhe had done; that ſhe ſhould be familiar in waſhing with water as well as drinking of it; and, as ſoon as ſhe was able, that ſhe ſhould remove to a convenient place, and uſe the cold bath.

Some days after this ſhe fell into a ſlight delirium, and bit the arm of one of her attendants, but was inſtantly relieved as uſual by bleeding, which was her reſource in every inſtance of emergency; and was certainly the principal remedy in bringing about a happy cure. From this time ſhe had no return of her diſorder, but began to recover from that weak and low ſtate, which faſting, evacuating medicines, and large bleedings had reduced her to. I have taken frequent occaſions to viſit her within theſe three months paſt, and find no traces of her madneſs left. It is true, ſhe recovered but ſlowly from her weak and lan-

guid

guid condition, and her health has never been quite ſo vigorous ſince as before. This, however, was probably owing to an obſtinacy in her temper, which made her always reject the better half of thoſe helps that were recommended to her. The cold bath in particular, ſhe conſtantly evaded, though frequently recommended with the greateſt importunity.

This woman was always of a very hyſterical habit, whence an ingenious young gentleman of the faculty, took occaſion to obſerve, that poſſibly all her complaints might ariſe from that ſource, that the hyſteric affection counterfeited all other diſorders, and why not the hydrophobia. But does not the preceding hiſtory evince to the contrary? We may obſerve, the diſorder took its firſt riſe in the wounded part of the leg, from whence it made a gradual progreſs according to the uſual courſe of the canine poiſon, and broke out into violence during ſleep, rather than when ſhe was awake. Her being cured, is no evidence her diſorder was not from infection, nor the long interval between the bite and its effects, for we have authentic hiſtories to prove that both are poſſible.

III. *The*

III.

The Hiſtory of a Caſe of Aſcites, remarkable for the Quantity of Water drawn off by Tapping. By Dr. William Scott, *Phyſician in Hawick.*

A Woman, in the thirty-fifth year of her age, when in the ſeventh month of pregnancy, had a violent bilious colic. Her belly was coſtive, and exceſſively ſwelled, attended with great thirſt; but upon the adminiſtration of two or three emollient injections, the operation of which gave relief, and drinking a quantity of water-gruel which brought on vomiting, the ſymptoms were mitigated. About three days after her delivery, which was natural, ſhe was again ſeized with the colic; but upon the repetition of the injections, and a doſe of ſacred tincture, ſhe was again relieved. Upon feeling her belly, I found a hardneſs in the right ſide, all along under the ſhort ribs, which plainly demonſtrated that the liver was ſchirrhous.

For five months after delivery ſhe had a return of the colic every fourth or fifth week. About this time the child was ordered to be weaned. One month after this ſhe had ſymp-

toms

toms of the catamenia, which terminated in the colic without any difcharge from the uterus.

The colic returned regularly, always about the time of menftruation for three months; from this time her belly began to fwell, accompanied with coftivenefs and fcarcity of urine. To remove the fwelling of her belly, which evidently depended on a collection of water, the operation of the paracentefis was performed, and from February 1777, to May 1778, 928 pints of water were drawn off at twenty-four fucceffive tappings at different intervals, as will appear from the fubfequent table. The water, for the firft four times was limpid, refembling whey. Afterwards it became muddy, and for the laft five times it feemed to confift principally of purulent matter. Upon the death of this patient, which happened foon after the twenty-fourth tapping, the following appearances were difcovered on diffection. The omentum was almoft entirely gone; the liver, uterus, and ovaria, were in a fchirrhous ftate; the myfenteric glands were very much enlarged, and upon being cut open, feemed to contain purulent matter. The right kidney was in its natural ftate, but the left was much enlarged, and the ureter thickened in its

coats.

coats. The coats of the colon and rectum were alſo much thickned, and adhered to the neighbouring parts.

No. of Times.	Weeks.	Pints.
1	—	34
2	5	50
3	4	20
4	2	36
5	4	48
6	4	54
7	3	54
8	3	52
9	3	56
10	2	46
11	3	53
12	2	49
13	2	46
14	2	47
15	2	42
16	2	40
17	2	28
18	2	28
19	2	29
20	2	38
21	2	31
22	1	29
23	1	13
24	1	5
Total of Water		928

The firſt column marks the number of times for which the tapping was performed. The ſecond the number of weeks intervening between each particular operation and the preceding one. And the third, the quantity of water, in Engliſh pints, drawn off at each operation.

IV.

The History of an uncommon Case in Midwifery, by Mr. William Spier, *Surgeon, of Ardee, County of Lowth, Ireland, communicated to Dr.* Duncan.

I Was in the morning of the 21ſt of March laſt called to the aſſiſtance of M. R. a poor woman in this town, who was in labour of her firſt child; ſhe was twenty years old, of a ſmall ſtature, and with a narrow pelvis; but without any other apparent deformity. The midwife, who attended her from the beginning of her illneſs, informed me, that the woman had come to her full time, and had been in labour for the five preceding days; ſhe ſaid her pains had been much ſtronger and more ſevere ſince yeſterday evening than before; that the membranes were not as yet broken, nor the waters diſcharged; but that in place of them, putrid coagulated blood had continued to flow abundantly from the vagina for half an hour.

As ſoon as I came, I was immediately ſolicited to try ſome method of delivering the woman, who was now ſomewhat exhauſted by the

the violence of the flooding. I was not a little ſurpriſed upon touching, to examine the progreſs of her labour, and endeavour to find out what might be uncommon in her caſe, to diſcover a large tumor, ſoft to the touch, and of a longitudinal form, covering the os internum. I at firſt miſtook this tumour for the membranes, and I imagined the flooding to proceed from ſome miſmanagement of the midwife; but, upon a more minute examination, to find out the ſource of the flooding, I diſcovered it to proceed from the tumor. I found alſo that this tumor was divided near its middle, by a pretty thick membrane into two ſeparate ſacs. As the woman was now grown languid, and her pulſe feeble, I thought it the moſt eligible method to make an opening into the moſt remote ſac to allow its contents to be evacuated. This I accordingly did with the nail of my fore-finger, and immediately upon the opening being made, there guſhed out a great quantity of putrid coagulated blood. This gave her ſome relief for the preſent. In the interim, the parts were frequently fomented with an emollient decoction; and in the intervals of the fomentation, a warm cloth was kept continually applied. Two hours and a quarter,

quarter after the blood was difcharged, the membranes broke and the waters came away. The child's head prefented itfelf, but was ftrictly locked in the pelvis. I waited that evening, that night, and next morning, in expectation that nature would affift the birth, but was at length forry to find myfelf difappointed in my expectation. The few lingering pains which fhe had the preceding evening had left her. She was now become languid, and her pulfe intermitting. In this critical fituation, I was determined upon making trial of the forceps, as recommended in thefe dubious cafes by that learned and experienced profeffor of midwifery, Dr. Young, a gentleman to whom I fhall ever acknowledge myfelf under the greateft obligations. I accordingly tried them, and in a fhort time, delivered her of a dead male child, which, from its livid appearance, feemed to have been dead a confiderable time in the womb. She met with no laceration of the perinæum, nor had fhe any incontinence of urine; accidents which frequently enfue after præternatural cafes; but fhe complained at the change of weather, of

pains about the region of the pubis. Her lochia were at firſt very offenſive, but ſhortly after they became leſs ſo. The woman had a ſpeedy and good recovery, and is now ſo well as to take care of her uſual buſineſs.

SECT.

SECT. III.

Medical News.

WE are ſorry that it has not been, before this, in our power to fulfil our promiſe of giving ſome account of the illuſtrious Dr. Haller. The many panegyrics on this emiment man, which have lately been delivered and publiſhed at almoſt every remarkable ſeat of medical literature in Europe, now afford us ample materials for a very full and particular account. But by the limits of our publication, we are neceſſarily reſtrained within very narrow bounds. And we can therefore propoſe to preſent our reader with a very general account only of the moſt remarkable particulars.

Albert von Haller was born at Bern, on the 16th of October, 1708. He was the ſon of an advocate, of conſiderable eminence in his profeſſion. His father had a numerous family, and Albert was the youngeſt of five ſons. From the firſt period of his education, he ſhewed a very great genius for literature of every kind; and to forward the progreſs of his ſtudies, his father took into his family a private tutor, named Abraham Baillodz. How far the rigid ſeverity of this pedagogue contributed to the rapid improvement of his pupil, may, perhaps, be a queſtion. But ſuch was the diſcipline he exerted, that the accidental ſight of him, at any future period of life, excited in Haller very great uneaſineſs, and renewed all his former terrors. It is, however, probable, that if any circumſtance, beſides uncommon natural genius, tended to forward his acquiſition of knowledge, he was no leſs indebted to an original delicacy of conſtitution than to the ſeverity of his teacher. As it was, perhaps, from this circumſtance that he had little reliſh for the common amuſements of other children; and in theſe he indulged himſelf very little in them.

But

But to whatever caufe it is to be attributed, according to the accounts which are given us, the progrefs of his ftudies, at the earlieft periods of life, was rapid almoft beyond belief. When other children are beginning only to read, he was ftudying Bayle and Moreri; and at nine years of age he was able to tranflate Greek, and was beginning the ftudy of Hebrew. Not long after this, however, the courfe of his education was fomewhat interrupted by the death of his father; an event which happened when he was in the thirteenth year of his age. After this he was fent to the public fchool at Bern, where he exhibited many fpecimens of early and uncommon genius. He was diftinguifhed for his knowledge in the Greek and Latin languages; but he was chiefly remarkable for his poetical genius: and his effays of this kind, which were publifhed in the German language, were read and admired throughout the whole empire.

Having made this proficiency in the preliminary branches of education, he was now fully qualified to enter on the ftudy of that profeffion, for the practice of which his future life was intended. And in the fixteenth year

of his age, he began the ſtudy of medicine at Tubingen, under thoſe eminent teachers Duvernoy and Camerarius. The commencement of his medical ſtudies was marked by an event characteriſtic of thoſe induſtrious exertions by which he was afterwards diſtinguiſhed. Determined, with unremitting induſtry, to dedicate his whole time to the proſecution of a ſtudy which he hoped would render him uſeful to mankind, he became a fugitive from the Muſes, and committed to the flames all thoſe little poetical eſſays which were then his principal, or rather his only amuſement.

He continued engaged in the ſtudy of medicine at Tubingen for the ſpace of two years, when the great reputation of the juſtly celebrated Boerhaave drew him to Leyden. Nor was this diſtinguiſhed teacher the only man, from whoſe ſuperior abilities, he had there an opportunity of profiting. Ruyſch was ſtill alive, and Albinus was riſing into fame. Animated by ſuch examples, it is not to be imagined that his aſſiduity would be relaxed. There he ſpent all the day, and the greateſt part of the night, in the moſt intenſe ſtudy. And the proficiency which he made, gained

him

him univerſal eſteem both from his teachers and fellow-ſtudents.

From Holland, in the year 1727, he came to England. Here, however, his ſtay was but ſhort, and it was rather his intention to viſit the illuſtrious men of that period than to proſecute his ſtudies at London. He formed connexions with ſome of the moſt eminent of them. He was honoured with the friendſhip of Douglas and Cheſelden, and he met with a reception proportioned to his merit from Sir Hans Sloane, preſident of the Royal Society. After his viſit to Britain, he went to France; there, under thoſe eminent maſters, Winſlow and Le Dran, with the latter of whom he reſided during his ſtay in Paris, he had opportunities of proſecuting anatomy, which he had not before enjoyed. But the zeal of our young anatomiſt was greater than the prejudices of the people at that period, even in the enlightened city of Paris, could admit of. An information being lodged againſt him to the police for diſſecting dead bodies, he was obliged to cut ſhort his anatomical inveſtigations by a precipitate retreat. Still, however, intent on the farther proſecution of his ſtudies,

he went to Basil, where he became a pupil to the celebrated Bernouli.

Thus improved and instructed by the lectures of the most distinguished teachers of that period, by uncommon natural abilities, and by unremitting industry, he returned to the place of his nativity in the 26th year of his age. And not long after this he offered himself a candidate, first, for the office of physician to an hospital, and afterwards for a professorship. But neither the character which he had, before he left his native country, nor the fame which he had acquired and supported while abroad, were sufficient to combat the interest opposed to him. He was disappointed in both. And it was even with difficulty, that he obtained in the following year, the appointment of keeper of a publick library at Bern, an office, the exercise of which, was, indeed, by no means suited to his great abilities. But it was the more agreeable to him, as it afforded him an opportunity for that extensive reading by which he has been so justly distinguished.

The neglect of his merit which marked his first outset, neither diminished his ardour for medi-

medical purſuits, nor detracted from his reputation, either at home or abroad. And ſoon after he was nominated a profeſſor in the univerſity of Goettingen, by our late gracious ſoſovereign George II. The duties of this important office, he diſcharged with no leſs honour to himſelf, than advantage to the public, for the ſpace of ſeventeen years. And it afforded him an ample field for the exertion of thoſe great talents which he poſſeſſed. Extenſively acquainted with the ſentiments of others reſpecting the œconomy of the human body, ſtruck with the diverſity of opinions which they held, and ſenſible that the only means of inveſtigating truth was by careful and candid experiment, he undertook the arduous taſk of exploring the phænomena of human nature from the original ſource. In theſe purſuits he was no leſs induſtrious than ſuccefsful, and there was hardly any function of the body on which his experiments did not reflect either a new or a ſtronger light. Nor was it long neceſſary for him, in this arduous undertaking to labour alone. The example of the preceptor inſpired his pupils with the ſpirit of induſtrious exertion. Zinn, Zimmerman, Caldani, and many others, animated by a generous emula-

emulation, laboured with indefatigable induſtry to proſecute and to perfect the diſcoveries of their great maſter. And the mutual exertion of the teacher and his ſtudents, not only tended to forward the progreſs of medical ſcience, but placed the philoſophy of the human body on a more ſure, and an almoſt entirely new baſis.

But the labours of Dr. Haller, during his reſidence at Goettingen, were, by no means confined to any one department of ſcience. He was not more anxious to be an improver himſelf, than to inſtigate others to ſimilar purſuits. And the intimacy which ſubſiſted between him and Baron de Munchauſen, the firſt miniſter in Hanover, who was the friend and patron of his merit, enabled him to ſet on foot inſtitutions admirably calculated for this purpoſe. To him, the Anatomical Theatre, the School of Midwifery, the Chirurgical Society, and the Royal Academy of Sciences at Goettingen, owe their origin. Such diſtinguiſhed merit could not fail to meet with a ſuitable reward from the ſovereign under whoſe protection he then taught. The king of Great Britain not only honoured him with every mark of attention which he himſelf could beſtow,

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but procured him alſo letters of nobility from the Emperor.

The ripened fruits of that genius and induſtry which were at firſt neglected, now drew the attention of almoſt every Mæcenas in Europe. On the death of Dillenius, he had an offer of the profeſſorſhip of botany at Oxford; the ſtates of Holland invited him to the chair of the younger Albinus; the king of Pruſſia was anxious that he ſhould be the ſucceſſor of Maupertuis at Berlin. Marſhal Keith wrote to him in the name of his ſovereign, offering him the chancellorſhip of the univerſity of Halle, vacant by the death of the celebrated Wolff. Count Orlow invited him to Ruſſia, in the name his miſtreſs the empreſs, offering him a diſtinguiſhed place at St. Peterſburgh. The king of Sweden conferred on him an unſolicited honour by raiſing him to the rank of knighthood of the order of the polar ſtar; and the emperor of Germany did him the honour of a perſonal viſit, during which, he thought it no degradation of his character, to paſs ſome time with him, in the moſt familiar converſation.

Thus honoured by ſovereigns, revered by men of literature, and eſteemed by all Europe,

rope, he had it in his power to have held the highest rank in the republic of letters. Yet declining all the tempting offers which were made to him, he continued at Goettingen anxiously endeavouring to extend the rising fame of that medical school. But after seventeen years residence in that university, an ill state of health rendering him less fit for the duties of the important office, which he held, he solicited and obtained permission from the regency of Hanover to return to his native city of Bern. His fellow-citizens, who might at first have fixed him among themselves, with no less honour than advantage to their city, were now as sensible as others of his superior merit. A pension was settled upon him for life, and he was nominated at different times to fill the most important offices in the state. These occupations, however, did not diminish his ardour for useful improvements. He was the first president, as well as the greatest promoter of the Oeconomical Society at Bern; and he may be considered as the father and founder of the Orphan-Hospital of that city. Declining health, however, restrained his exertions in the more active scenes of life, and for many years he was confined entirely

entirely to his own houſe. Even this, however, could not put a period to his utility; for with indefatigable induſtry he continued his favourite employment of writing till within a few days of his death, which happened in the 70th year of his age, on the 12th of December 1777.

After what has been ſaid, to ſum up his character would be ſuperfluous; to enumerate his improvements or his writings would much exceed the limits of our publication. It is ſufficient to obſerve, that thoſe extenſive works, his Elementa Phyſiologiæ and Bibliotheca Medicinæ, will afford, to lateſt poſterity, undeniable proofs of his indefatigable induſtry, penetrating genius, and ſolid judgment. But he was no leſs diſtinguiſhed as a philoſopher, than beloved as a man; and he was not more eminent for his improvement in every department of medical ſcience, than for his piety to God, and benevolence to all mankind.

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That admirable inſtitution, which has long ſubſiſted at Paris under the title of La Société Libre d'Emulation, the objects of whoſe inquiries have been ſo much directed to public utility,

utility, has proposed a prize question for the present year, the proper solution of which must be considered as of the utmost importance. In their programme they observe, that numerous and melancholy instances of the deliterious effects resulting from the use of kitchen utensils, yielding matters of a poisonous quality, had justly excited the attention, not only of physicians, but of the public in general. And although those of copper and lead be unquestionably the most dangerous, yet it is universally allowed, that those also of pewter, iron, and even earthen ware, are very far from being free from inconveniences. Considering, therefore, improvements on this subject as well meriting attention, they have allotted the sum of nine hundred livres, as an encouragement to inquiries and trials with regard to it. The question is proposed in the following terms.

Trouver une matiere, ou une composition quelconque, avec laquelle on puisse fabriquer des ustensiles de cuisine, capables de soutenir tres-longtems, la plus forte ebulition, les alternatives subites du froid, et de la plus grande chaleur, qui n'ayent aucun des inconveniens du cuivre, du plomb, des etamages, convertes ou

vernis

vernis ordinaires, et qui ſoient auſſi ſolides et moins chers, s'il eſt poſſible, que les uſtenſiles d'uſage.

Memoirs on this ſubject are deſired to be directed, au Bureau Royal de Correſpondance generale, rue des Deux Portes. S. Sauveur, a Paris.

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The many extraordinary cures which have of late been performed, by means of medicated vapour baths, in London and Dublin, muſt neceſſarily ſuggeſt to the attentive practitioner, the idea of furniſhing other places alſo with this uſeful and important remedy, in ſome of the moſt obſtinate diſeaſes. It is with particular pleaſure, therefore, we learn, that ſuch baths are now erecting in different places. Dr. Hunter, of York, in conjunction with Meſſ. Garencieres and Whaley, apothecaries in that city, has lately fitted up there, at a very conſiderable expence, baths, on a conſtruction ſimilar to thoſe of Dr. Kelly in the neighbourhood of London. Theſe are now completed, and open to patients at a moderate rate, from eight in the morning till ten at night. And it is to be hoped that the gentlemen who have

carried

carried this undertaking into execution, will meet with a proper return for having provided a remedy, no lefs pleafing than efficacious, for the numerous difeafes which derive their origin from obftructed perfpiration and confined humours.

But in fmaller towns, all the returns which could reafonably be expected from medicated baths, would be by no means fufficient for defraying the expence of fuch conftructions as thofe at London and York. It is therefore much to be wifhed, that proper trials were made of more fimple contrivances for this purpofe. From thefe, there is reafon to prefume, that many, at leaft, of the benefits of this mode of cure might be obtained.

An ingenious phyfician, who has the charge of a county hofpital in England, and whofe attention to every thing that can improve his profeffion is highly worthy of imitation, in a letter to Dr. Duncan, informs him, that he has lately employed medicated vapours with his patients, by means of a common ftill and vapour-bath chair, connected by a proper tube; and that, in fome inftances, this practice has been attended with great fuccefs. We hope,

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in ſome future number, to be able to give a more full account of this practice. Meanwhile, it may not be improper to obſerve, that the application of medicated vapours in this way, can be tried any where, at a very trifling expence.

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It is now upwards of a year ſince we mentioned that a third edition of Dr. Cullen's Synopſis Noſologiæ Methodicæ was in the preſs at Edinburgh; and that this work, which had formerly been contained in one volume octavo, was now to be ſo far enlarged, that it would extend to two. But, after the firſt of theſe volumes had been printed off, the learned author was induced to ſuſpend this work for ſome time. He has now, however, again reſumed it; and it is to be hoped that the whole will ſoon be ready for publication.

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Dr. Charles Webſter, of Edinburgh, has been, for ſome time, engaged in preparing for publication, a ſelection of the beſt inaugural diſſertations on practical ſubjects, and arranging them in ſuch a manner as to form one connected ſyſtem. This work is now in the preſs, and is entitled, Syſtema Medicinæ

Praxeos, complectens Dissertationes Argumenti Medico-Practici Selectiores. It is intended to exhibit to the public not so much the labours of the students whose names the dissertations bear, as to give a view of the doctrines respecting particular diseases, and of the method of cure, delivered by the most eminent teachers of the practice of medicine at Edinburgh, particularly those of the late Drs. Rutherford and Gregory, a proper account of whose practice was never published by themselves; and of Drs. Cullen and Duncan, both of whom, in the lectures which they at present deliver, recommend many modes of treatment in particular diseases, which they consider as improvements, and which never have appeared in print, unless in the form of inaugural dissertations by their pupils. These, however, are seldom exposed to sale, and very rarely read beyond the precincts of the university where they are published. The present work, therefore, will, probably, furnish a view of modern practice, not inferior to any one which has of late appeared.

Dr.

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Dr. Home has, for ſeveral years, been preparing for publication the reſult of his obſervation and experience at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, where he has, every winter, in conjunction with Dr. Gregory, the care of the clinical patients. This work is now in the preſs, and is entitled, Clinical Experiments, Hiſtories, and Diſſections. Beſides containing accurate hiſtories of the caſes of particular patients, a diſtinct view of the treatment in each, and the principal obſervations which were delivered in lecture; it exhibits alſo a faithful account of trials which have been made with the greateſt part of the new remedies lately introduced into practice; and a minute detail of the effects which have been obſerved to reſult from them.

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A work is at preſent in the preſs at Edinburgh, by Dr. Gregory, entitled, Conſpectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ; in Uſum Academicum. In this publication, which is intended principally, as a text-book for his lectures, the phyſiology and general pathology are conjoined. Thus in treating of any function, as for exam-

ple respiration, he considers the manner in which it is performed, its uses, its varieties, as voice, speech, weeping, laughing, &c. its disorders, as cough, sneezing, and dyspnœa, of various kinds, their causes, effects, and general principles of cure, whether radical or palliative.

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A new edition of Mr. Bell's treatise on the Theory and Management of Ulcers, of which an analysis was given in a former number of this work, is in the press, and will soon be published. In this edition, the author has made several alterations, and not a few additions, which must encrease considerably the value of a work, which has already deservedly met with a very favourable reception from the public.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

List of New Books.

ISaaci Newtoni opera quæ extant omnia, commentariis illustrabat Samuel Horsley, LL. D. R. S. S. &c. 4to. London.

The Medical Register for the year 1779, 8vo. London.

Descriptions and figures of petrifactions, found in the quarries, gravel-pits, &c. near Bath. By John Walcott, Esq. 8vo. London.

Cases and remarks in surgery, to which is subjoined an appendix, containing the method of curing the bronchocele in Coventry. By B. Wilmer, Surgeon. 8vo. London.

A medical commentary on fixed air, by Mathew Dobson, M. D. F. R. S. 8vo. London.

Deſcription of an engine for dividing ſtraight lines on mathematical inſtruments, by J. Ramſden. 4to. London.

Animadverſiones de natura hydropis ejuſque curatione; auctore Franſiſco Milman, M. D. 8vo London.

A ſynopſis of a courſe of lectures on anatomy and ſurgery, by Magnus Falconer, 8vo. London.

Experiments and obſervations on animal heat, and the inflammation of combuſtible bodies; being an attempt to reſolve theſe phænomena into a general law of nature. By Adair Crawford, M. A. 8vo. London.

Syſtematic elements of the theory and practice of ſurgery, by John Aitken, Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Member of the Medical Society, and Lecturer on Chirurgical Anatomy and Pharmaceutic Chemiſtry in Edinburgh. 8vo. Edinburgh.

Hermanni Boerhaave epiſtolæ ad Joan Baſſandum, medicum Cæſareum. 8vo. Vindobonæ.

Succincta medicorum Hungariæ et Tranſylvaniæ Biographia, excerpta ex adverſariis

Steph.

Steph. Wizpremi, M. D. Civit. Debregen. Phip. 2 vols. 8vo. Vienna.

Synopsis Fontium Austriæ; provinciarumque subditarum a J—— C——, M. D. 8vo. Vienna.

Caroli Casp. Siebold historia lithotomiæ in eodem homine bis factæ cum ejus restitutione. 8vo. Wurgburgh.

Dissertatio Physica de aere, ejusque speciebus, præcipue de aere fixo lapidis calcarei. 4to. Zurich.

Materia Medica e regno vegetabili sistens simplicia officinalia pariter atque culinaria secundum systema sexuale ex autopsia et experientia fideliter digessit Petrus Jonas Bergius, M. D. et Hist. Nat. et Pharm. Prof. Stock. &c. II[bus] tom. 8vo. Stockholmiæ.

Apparatus medicaminum tam supplicium quam præparatorum & compositorum in praxeos adjumentum consideratus. Auctore Jo. Andrea Murray, M. D. & Bot. in Acad. Reg. Gotting. Prof. Pub. Ord. &c. Vol. I[um] et II[um]. 8vo. Gottingæ.

Collection complette des œuvres de Charles Bonnet. Vol. I. II. III. 4to. Neufchatel.

Epoques raisonnes sur la vie d'Albert von Haller. 8vo. Leipsic.

La Medecine-prâtique de Londres, ouvrage dans lequel on a exposé la definition & les symptomes des maladies avec la methode actuelle de les guerir, traduit sur la seconde edition, revu, publie, & enrichi de notes. Par M. J. F. de Villiers, docteur regent de la faculté de medicine de Paris. 8vo. Paris.

Traité sur le scorbut, traduit du Latin de M. Lemeilleur, Med. de Montpellier. Par M. Giraud, Med. de Besançon. 8vo. Paris.

Experiences propres a faire connoitre que l'alkali volatil fluor est le remede le plus efficace dans les asphyxies; avec des remarques sur les effets avántageux qu'il produit dans la morsure de la vipere, dans la rage, &c. Par M. Sage. 12mo. Paris.

Lettre a M. S——, capitaine de cavallerie sur l'institution des sourds & muets. Par M. l'Abbé Deschamps, chapelain de l' Eglise d' Orleans. 12mo. Paris.

Physique du corps humain, ou physiologie moderne, avec des remarques, sur la santé, la nature, la cause, et le traitement des maladies, a l'usage des etudiens en chirurgie et en medecine.

cine. Par M. l'Abbé Sauri, docteur en medecine & correspondant de l'academie royale des sciences de Montpellier. 2 tomes. 8vo. Paris.

Discours public pour la rentree des ecoles de chirurgie de la ville de Lyon, prononcé par M. Grassot, professeur royal en matiere medico-chirurgicale. 4to. Paris.

Lettres de M. Alexandre Volta, noble patricien de Come et membre du grand conseil, professeur royal de physique experimentale, &c. sur l'air inflammable des marais, auxquelles on a ajouté trois lettres du même auteur, tirées du journal de Milan. 8vo. Strasbourg.

Recherches sur les maladies chroniques, particulierement sur les hydropisies, & sur les moyens de les guerir, par M. Bacher, docteur regent de la faculté de medecine de Paris. 8vo. Paris.

Remarques sur cette espéce de paralysie des extremities inferieures, que l'on trouve souvent accompagnée de la courbure de l'epine du dos, qui est supposée en être la cause : avec la methode de la guerir : suivie de plusieurs observations sur la necessité et les avantages de l'amputation dans certaines circonstances. Par M. Per-

M. Percival Pott, de la Societé royale de Londres & chirurgien de l'hopital de S. Bartholemi, ouvrage traduit de l'Anglois avec des observations, & des additions. Par M. Beerenbroek, docteur en medicine, associé au college royal des medecins, & a la societé royale de medecine d'Edimbourg. 8vo. Bruxelles.

Dissertationes medicæ inaugurales quas ex auctoritate reverendi admodum viri Gulielmi Robertson, S. S. T. P. Academiæ Edinburgenæ præfecti, nec non amplissimi senatus academici consensu & nobilissimæ facultatis medicæ decreto, pro gradu doctoratus, summisque in medicina honoribus ac privilegiis, rite ac legitime consequendis, eruditorum examini subjecerunt.

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Georgius Brown, Hibernus, de usu corticis Peruviani in febribus intermittentibus.

Josephus Clarke, Hibernus, de putredine in typho coercenda.

Gulielmus Cleghorn, Britannus, de igne.

Joannes Hallilay, Anglo-Britannus, de phthisi pulmonali.

Robertus Lovell, e insula Barbada, de hepate.

Patricius Plunket, Hibernus, de aere mephitico.

Car. Gul. Quin, Hibernus, de hydrocephalo interno.

Thomas Shadwell, Hibernus, de phthisi pulmonali.

Edmundus Simpson, Anglus, de oculo humano.

Georgius-Hoggart Toulmin, Anglo-Britannus, de cynanche tonsillari.

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